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EDITORIAL NOTE

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is an association of Commonwealth parliamentarians united by the pursuit of the high ideals of parliamentary democracy. The CPA has within its fold a large number of national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures. Three years from now, the Association will be completing 100 years of its fruitful existence. During its long and chequered history, the CPA has played a laudable role in upholding parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance. Through its endeavours, Parliaments and peoples of the Commonwealth from diverse backgrounds, have forged close links and mutually benefited in various areas related to governance. The CPA has also been encouraging Regional Conferences among its Branches to devote special attention to matters of regional interest. The CPA Branches of the North-East region of India have been organizing Regional Conferences every year since 1997. These Conferences have provided a forum for legislators of this Region to discuss issues of common concern and also the problems and prospects of parliamentary democracy in the region. The Eleventh North-East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (NERCPA) Conference was held at Aizawl, Mizoram on 28 May 2008. The Conference deliberated on 'Budgetary Process—Performance Budget' and 'Time Management for Promoting Efficiency in the Activities of the Legislatures'. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Inaugural Address by the Lok Sabha Speaker.

On 13 June 2008, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the E.M.S. Namboodiripad Memorial Lecture on 'Democratic Consolidation: The Indian Experience' at Thiruvananthapuram. In his lecture, the Speaker observed that one of the most remarkable achievements of the first six decades of India's freedom was that it had not only sustained but also reinforced a vibrant system of governance based on parliamentary democracy, committed to secularism and inclusive and equitable development. Democracy has come of age and is flourishing and thriving in the country. He noted that since Independence, the people have shown tremendous zeal and enthusiasm for participation in the electoral and governance processes and thereby greatly helped in the establishment and strengthening of the largest working democracy in the world. Democratic consolidation was not a one-time process. It was only through the committed efforts of all sections of polity and

every institution associated with democracy that the process could be sustained meaningfully. He said that it was the responsibility of all stakeholders to identify and curb all the negative tendencies that are causing erosion in the democratic values. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the lecture delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha at the Memorial Lecture.

We also carry in this issue the other regular features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

In our constant pursuit of making the *Journal* more enriching and useful, we always invite and welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem oriented, non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and all others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—P.D.T. Achary
Editor

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE 11TH NORTH-EAST REGION COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE AT AIZAWL, MIZORAM, 28 MAY 2008

The 11th North-East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (NERCPA) Conference was held from 28 to 30 May 2008 at Aizawl, Mizoram.

We reproduce below the text of the Inaugural Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

—Editor

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am extremely happy to be with you here today on the occasion of the Eleventh Conference of the North-East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I heartily felicitate the North-East Region CPA for having organized this Conference at Aizawl. Mizoram is not only endowed with a rich culture and history but is also known for its scenic beauty. That apart, Mizoram is a peaceful State and has made impressive socio-economic progress.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has within its fold a large number of National, State, Provincial and Territorial Parliaments and Legislatures. Three years from now, the Association will be completing 100 years of its eventful existence. During its long and chequered history, the CPA has played a key role in upholding Parliamentary democracy and made rich contributions towards promoting cooperation among its member-countries. Through its endeavours, Parliaments and peoples of the Commonwealth from diverse backgrounds, have forged close links and mutually benefited in various areas related to governance with a positive impact on development, peace and harmony.

I am happy that the North-East Region CPA, as part of the CPA family, has been working assiduously in furthering the aims and mission of the Association. It has held regular meetings to deliberate upon issues of common concern, thereby fostering democratic values and better understanding amongst its constituent members.

As you are aware, the North-Eastern Region occupies a unique and distinctive position in the socio-cultural and geo-political landscape of the country. Surrounded by five countries, the Region has enormous strategic and economic importance. Government policies and Programmes have been drawn up keeping this significant facet in view.

The North-East Region holds tremendous potential for socio-economic development. It is richly endowed with natural resources, ranging from mineral wealth to water resources to forests and has a favourable agro-climatic conditions. In spite of many obstacles and problems, the Region has registered impressive performance. Amongst these figure the achievement of higher literacy rates and higher women's work participation rate compared to the all-India average. The high social status accorded to women is yet another remarkable and praiseworthy feature of the Region. However, the stark reality is that underdevelopment has persisted. This and other socio-cultural and ethnic complex problems which have not been satisfactorily resolved have engendered an unsettled situation in many parts of the Region, leading to the scourge of insurgency. The per capita gross state domestic product of the Region is low. The Region's share of road and rail networks, as well as power availability is below the national average. However, its literacy rate is higher than the national average, which is a matter of pride for the whole Region and the country as a whole.

For proper and balanced development of the Region amongst other priorities, the Region needs to realize its full potential and create an environment that is conducive to investment, both public and private. What is vitally needed is increasing people's participation at the grassroots level and strengthening capacity building of the people and of the democratic Institutions. Durable peace and prosperity will follow the people's active participation in the decision-making process. It is incumbent upon the people's representatives at all levels to ensure that governance is accountable, transparent, responsible and responsive to the peoples' issues and demands.

This is not to paint a negative scenario of the Region. Successive Governments have taken various noteworthy measures to bring peace and development to the Region. The constitution of the North-Eastern Council in 1971 represented a major initiative in this direction. The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DONER) was set up in 2001 and has the mandate to look into the holistic and comprehensive socio-economic development of the Region. The Region receives special attention to expedite its balanced development. I understand that a new Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Shillong will become

functional from 2008-09 session. It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction for the whole of North-East that Guwahati has been selected to house one of the 14 world class Universities to be established during the Eleventh Plan period. I have no manner of doubt that sooner rather than later, the North-Eastern States will play a much larger role than today in national affairs by their steady progress and development.

I am happy that the NERCPA has an important role in fostering ties within the Region, over the years and focused attention on issues that are of vital concern to the well-being of the people of the Region. The Agenda of this Conference has, I find, important subjects *i.e.*— 'Budgetary Process–Performance Budget' and 'Time Management for Promoting Efficiency in the Activities of the Legislatures'. Budgetary process is one through which the Demands for Grants of the various Ministries are discussed and voted by the Legislature, enabling the popularly elected body to scrutinize the budget proposals closely and also to enforce accountability. The Performance Budget enables the evaluation and assessment of performance against the broad objectives of public policy and programmes adopted by the Government. It greatly helps in improving effectiveness and bringing efficiency into the functioning of various Ministries and Departments.

Performance budget prepared by each Ministry or Department of the Government enables the Legislature to oversee whether the money allocated for a particular programme is being utilized in the best possible manner to yield the planned targets. The presentation of Performance Budget has been made mandatory for all the Ministries of the Central Government from the financial year 2005-06 onwards.

As you are aware, Parliament enjoys autonomy in its financial matters. The annual budget estimates of the Parliament of India are not subjected to examination by the Executive and are incorporated in the Union Budget. The budget is voted by the Parliament with no sanctions exercised by the Executive, and no cut motion or discussion relating to the Budget of the two Houses and their Secretariats is allowed. However, what is of great importance is that the elected bodies like the Parliament and the Assemblies as well as the members should maintain high standards of accountability and transparency in all matters of functioning, including the financial matters. Whatever money is spent on Legislature and its members are drawn from the public funds and only to facilitate their functioning as ordained in the Constitution and, therefore, it is contingent upon them to bring in transparency in all their financial arrangements. Like all other Public bodies and Institutions, Legislative bodies should observe public accountability

in all their affairs, including financial matters. The CPA has also been highlighting the importance of accountability and transparency in the financial affairs of the Parliaments.

This subject has special significance for the North-East Region also. I compliment the North-East Region CPA for taking up the subject with a view to familiarizing the legislators of the Region with the concept of Performance Budget and its strengths. In view of the commitment of the Government of India to bring about massive socio-economic development in the Region and the considerable budgetary support extended towards this objective, the role of the Legislatures to ensure proper utilization of funds assumes greater importance. I am sure this Conference would deliberate upon these crucial issues which will help bringing in greater efficiency and accountability in our fiscal management and lead to coordinated and better implementation of the Governmental programmes.

The need for better performance by the Legislatures is a subject that will be dealt with while discussing the second item of the Agenda too, which is, 'Time Management for Promoting efficiency in the Activities of the Legislatures'. We must pay proper attention to time management as the volume of legislative business has expanded tremendously and the nature of the legislation has become more complex, while the number of sittings has been observed to be shrinking.

One of the issues that concerns all of us is the frequent disruption of House proceedings resulting in the wastage of precious time. Often, attempts are made to raise issues knowing that they cannot be so raised under the existing Rules. Some times, even the budget is passed without discussions. Though assurances of cooperation are given to the Speaker, the same are not observed. There appear to be deliberate attempts to disturb proceedings leading to adjournments. The Chair's repeated pleas to maintain order in the House are not heeded and its authority is questioned creating a situation that is detrimental to the proper conduct of business and dignity of the House. The live telecast of the parliamentary proceedings has brought our Legislature closer to the people and now they can see for themselves how their representatives discharge their responsibility in the House and it is hoped that members whose behaviour is a blot in our democratic functioning will not be condoned. The wastage of time of the House and forced adjournments have given rise to doubts in the minds of the people, particularly the youth, about the relevance of our representative bodies. Questions are being raised about spending

crores of rupees of public money in maintaining an institution that is not allowed to function. It is a matter for serious introspection that about 133 hours of precious time of Lok Sabha was lost in 2007 due to interruptions and adjournments. The figure was about 75 hours in 2005 and 98 hours in 2006. Already this year we have lost about 20 per cent of the total allotted time of the Lok Sabha due to adjournments and disruptions. It should be remembered that there are various parliamentary devices that provide ample opportunities to the members to raise issues in the House or to highlight a grievance. Wasting the time of the House erodes Parliament's ability to discharge its watchdog function as also to have detailed discussion on legislative proposals and Demands for Grants of various Ministries. It also deprives the members, who wish to participate with a sense of responsibility, the opportunity to participate in the proceedings of the House. Disruption of the proceedings due to interruptions and adjournments tantamounts to denigrating the entire democratic fabric of the country.

The most important foundation of Parliamentary democracy is the faith of the public in the efficacy of the system to address their hopes and concerns in the best way possible. Therefore, Legislative Bodies must be allowed to function in a manner so as to maintain and uphold people's faith in parliamentary democracy and its dignity and sanctity.

Both the Legislature and the Executive have to ensure that the Legislature plays its due role as enshrined in the Constitution. In the North-Eastern Region, which has been provided substantial resources by way of special economic and developmental packages and through the allocation of mandatory 10 per cent of the Annual Plan expenditure of all the Central Ministries, it is essential that the Legislatures keep an unremitting watch over various programmes and to ensure that the available money is spent prudently and in the best interest of the people. I am sure that with sincerity and commitment, the Legislatures of North-East Region can become model Houses to be emulated by the rest of the country.

With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating the Eleventh Conference of the North-East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I am sure that the Conference will be a great success and will have very fruitful deliberations and help in further strengthening parliamentary democracy in the country as a whole and in the Region in particular.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE E.M.S. NAMBOODIRIPAD MEMORIAL LECTURE ON 'DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION: THE INDIAN EXPERIENCE' AT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, 13 JUNE 2008

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the E.M.S. Namboodiripad Memorial Lecture on 'Democratic Consolidation: The Indian Experience' at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 13 June 2008.

We reproduce below the text of the Lecture delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

—Editor

Shri M. Vijayakumar, Honourable Minister for Parliamentary Affairs & Law; other Honourable Ministers; Honourable Members of the Assembly; Comrades; Members of the Institute of Parliamentary Affairs; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Ellavarkkum Entte Abhivadyangal!

I feel greatly honoured and privileged to have been invited to deliver this Lecture in memory of respected Comrade, Late E.M.S. Namboodiripad, an outstanding mass leader and one of the tallest thinkers and theoreticians of modern India as also of the Communist Movement in the country, on the occasion of his birth centenary. At the outset, I take this opportunity to pay my respectful homage to the memory of Comrade EMS who personified the finest traditions of public life and of the Left Movement in the country. I heartily compliment the Institute of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala, on organizing this Lecture Series.

Comrade E.M.S. Namboodiripad was one of the greatest Communist leaders, of our country, whose commitment to the cause of the deprived and the downtrodden remains unparalleled. Endowed as he was with a sharp and deeply analytical mind and very well-read on the liberal and the communist literature, he was a rare combination of an original thinker, a pragmatic theoretician, an unrivalled leader of the masses, a sensitive social activist and a reformer and an idealist to

the core. With exceptional intellectual ability, he dedicated his life to the cause of the nation and the common people. It speaks volumes of his remarkable commitment that though born in a caste-ridden feudal society, Namboodiripad broke the shackles of his high-caste aristocratic origin and fought against the numerous societal evils and obscurantism of his times.

Comrade EMS was drawn into the Freedom Movement right from his college days. The demonstrations following the arrest of national leaders and freedom fighters during the salt *Satyagraha* roused national fervour in young Namboodiripad. The January of 1932 saw him leave the college to take the final plunge into the Freedom Movement and he remained actively involved in the picketing of foreign cloth shops, as part of the policy of boycott announced by the National Leaders. He was one of the chief inspiration for and among the Founder Leaders of the Congress Socialist Party in 1934 and later, in 1937, he formed the first Unit of the Communist Party of India in Kerala. From that time onwards, he dedicated his life to the Communist ideology, till his last breath, and applied it to understand the peculiar conditions of Indian society in general and of Kerala in particular.

Comrade EMS was a pioneer and path breaker in every sense of the term. Convinced that the impetus for social reforms should come from within the community, he actively associated himself with the *'Yoga Kshema Sabha'*, an organization floated by the Brahmin youth to fight against the regressive customs prevalent in society. Interestingly, Namboodiripad's early endeavours at social reforms included a campaign to liberate women from various retrograde customs. He also helped to launch the agitation of the Ezhavas in Kerala against the taboos enforced on them by the upper classes. True to his belief and conviction, he always remained a guiding light in bringing about societal transformation in Kerala.

The election of a Communist Party Government under his leadership in 1957, through the democratic electoral process, the first ever of its kind in the history of Communist Movement world-wide, was a watershed event. That, in a way, marked the beginning of the unravelling of the so-called 'Kerala Model', in the political and economic lexicon. Comrade Namboodiripad was committed to the cause of the people and to the furtherance of democratic values all his life. It was under his dynamic leadership that the Communists committed themselves to the democratic way of functioning. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, who held the portfolios of Law, Home, Prison and Administration in the first EMS's government, once recalled in an interview, and I quote:

> On the first day of governance itself, E.M.S. very obviously made it clear the aims of his Government. It was not to create a communist revolution in Kerala; it was impossible and impractical. On the other hand, as the Party was with the national leaders of India during the struggle for Independence, its aim was to create a democratic Government in which the people have the ultimate sovereignty. It also aimed at distributing the agrarian land to the farmers, establishing industrial institutions, which would ensure labour to labourers, provide equality among the people and thus wielding human rights completely as a weapon to alienate capitalist forces...

In the opportunity the people gave him to head a Communist government, Comrade EMS saw a mandate to translate his party's ideals into practice. The land reforms initiated by him, which fixed an absolute ceiling on the land a family could own and which also provided for the excess land to be redistributed among the landless, remain the most successfully implemented land reforms in our country so far. The only other State that has come closer to the Kerala experiment is that of West Bengal. Fixity of tenure, freedom from eviction and a fair rent were some of the most notable features in the land reforms introduced by him. He even got the land rights of the hutment dwellers defined.

Closely associated with the cause of the peasantry and the peasant movement in Kerala, the contribution of Comrade EMS to improve the agrarian system in the State is legendary. Possessing excellent communication skill, he actively campaigned to make peasants and other ordinary workers politically conscious about social inequalities and mobilized them to fight for their rights. Who can forget his lone minute of dissent to the Report of the Malabar Tenancy Enquiry Committee in 1939 in favour of the peasants when the rest of the Committee members had reached a consensus in favour of the landlords? One could see in it the seeds of one of the most comprehensive land reforms in India. Apart from the well-known agrarian reforms, his Government was credited with having brought in a number of other reforms, particularly in the education system by widening its access to the common people, in Kerala.

Incidentally, Comrade Namboodiripad also headed the first ever coalition Government in India. In fact, as the Chief Minister of Kerala, he laid down the parameters for successful coalition governance in the State and in the country. It goes to his credit that he did not allow political expediency to compromise with his principles to align with any of the political parties known to have communal identities. Namboodiripad

had identified communalism as the greatest threat to democracy and consistently fought the divisive and communal forces and sectarianism all through his life. Under his leadership, the Communist Party gave concrete guidance to promote harmonious relationship among different sections of the society. His commitment to the cause of the common man was indeed absolute.

Known for his austere and simple life style, he was a role model for all Communists. He provided effective leadership to his party as its General Secretary for nearly a decade. Even when he ceased to be its General Secretary, his was one of the most powerful influences on the party and its programmes. An ardent believer in party discipline, he had great faith in democratic values. He firmly believed in the necessity of democratic decentralization and his efforts resulted in Kerala having one of the most efficient systems of *Panchayati Raj* in the country today. He was a political leader who raised politics through his steadfast commitment to the cause of the people's welfare and personal integrity to a loftier level that few can aspire to reach. He brought to politics a new sense of commitment and his belief in democracy and people remained supreme.

He was endowed with a remarkable sense of history, an incisive world view and a profound sense of humour. He made seminal contributions through his writings on land reforms, society, politics, literature and history. He made his mark as the first Marxist historian in this highly literate State. His dedication to scholarship was legendary; he always found time to write proficiently and prolifically on issues of national relevance, even while remaining in the thick of political life. I understand that just two hours prior to his death, he was busy dictating articles for *'Deshabhimani'*. No tribute can do justice to the multifaceted, yet austere life led by EMS who was a steadfast anti-imperialist, an unwavering social reformer, an acknowledged literary critic, a renowned Marxist thinker, theoretician and historian and, above all, a person loved and held in very high esteem by millions of people. No wonder he was referred to reverentially as the 'intellectual giant' by all. Today, as we are celebrating his birth centenary, it is equally important to recall his abiding commitment to the ideals of parliamentary democracy. He strove ceaselessly to inculcate in his fellow comrades and countrymen the imperative of empowering people through the instrumentalities of democracy. It is in this context that today I have chosen to speak on 'Democratic Consolidation: The Indian Experience', in reverence to the memory of respected Comrade EMS who dedicated his entire life to serve the people and to promote democratic traditions in the country.

Friends, with the attainment of freedom on 15 August 1947, we opted for a parliamentary democratic form of governance as our Founding Fathers felt that it suited our genius, political ethos, heritage and the specificities of the peculiar Indian situation at that time. In keeping with our traditions, practices and the spirit underlying our freedom struggle, we adopted a Constitution which lays down that the people shall be the ultimate repository of power and authority. The democracy we adopted within the framework of the provisions of our Constitution is committed to the task of creating a social order based on equity and political and economic justice.

One of our most remarkable achievements of the first six decades of freedom is that we have not only sustained but also reinforced a vibrant system of governance based on parliamentary democracy, committed to secularism and inclusive and equitable development. Democracy has come of age and is flourishing and thriving in our country. Since Independence, our people have shown tremendous zeal and enthusiasm tor participation in the electoral and governance processes, and thereby have greatly helped in the establishment and strengthening of the largest working democracy in the world. The fourteen general elections that we went through and numerous elections to the State Assemblies, marked by peaceful changes in Government, reinforced unquestionably our people's commitment and capability to successfully run a democratic system.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that we have been able to surmount varied problems that confronted our democracy from time to time and have emerged as one of the most successful experiments with democracy by the post-colonial societies. Our achievements look particularly impressive given the failure of many countries that secured freedom around the same period as we did, to secure even the most elementary constituents of a democratic system. The healthy survival of democracy in India also meant an endorsement of the very viability of democracy for new-born countries and as such it gave a boost to the spread of democratic idea elsewhere in the world. In the early years of Independence, there was widespread skepticism about the ability of democratic institutions to survive in our poverty-stricken, inequality-ridden and graded society. Proving sceptics wrong, our democratic institutions have emerged robust, surviving numerous challenges and enjoying wider legitimacy among most sections of our population.

For a country of continental size and widespread diversity like India, nation building has indeed been a gigantic task. Through our parliamentary polity reinforced by a multi-party system and provisions

for free and fair elections to representative bodies, accountability of the Executive independence of the Judiciary, existence of a free and vigilant Fourth Estate and an ever watchful citizenry, we have provided effective institutional framework for a successful democracy. According to Professor Amartya Sen, the Nobel Laureate, 'What India has achieved under democratic framework in the past over five decades is far more impressive and it overwhelms some of the shortcomings and failures.'

Today, we are a self-reliant economy and a self-sufficient granary which, on its own, is feeding the world's second largest population. Besides having a formidable industrial and military base, we have built up one of the world's largest pools of scientific and technological manpower. With democratic planning and the sustained efforts of our democratically elected governments, we have been witnessing increasing growth rate for the past few years and today we are acknowledged as a significant player in the global economy, which augurs well for the future and health of our democracy. We achieved all this despite the fact that in the past half-a-century, we faced many critical situations, numerous challenges from within and without trying to divide the country on the basis of religion and caste, insurgencies, waves of terrorism, proxy wars and external aggressions. Our biggest achievement has been that the common man remained unshaken all through this period in his faith in the democratic system.

On the social front too, we have made significant gains. Our Constitution, when it came into force, also set the tone for a progressive and egalitarian society, thus offering hope to the millions who had been suffering for centuries remaining on the fringes of a hierarchical and stratified social order. Removal of untouchability and treating everybody as equal before the law were nothing less than silent, yet profound revolutions. The provisions of affirmative action and positive discriminations to empower the deprived and the weaker sections have changed the lives of millions of people who are today leading much better and more dignified lives than their ancestors could ever hope for. Many of the governmental interventions are focused on the emancipation of the disadvantaged sections of our society in order to empower them socially, economically, politically and even emotionally. In fact, Comrade EMS led the way as the Chief Minister of Kerala in many of these areas. Our legislative bodies at the Centre and in the States have passed several legislations for safeguarding the vulnerable sections against social discrimination, violence and atrocities and for promoting the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections. Nonetheless,

we all agree that mere enactment of laws does not guarantee the eradication of the related problems. Proper implementation of the legislations is necessary to ensure that the intended beneficiaries get the optimum benefits. Further, to tackle the problems in a holistic manner, it is imperative to think and go beyond the legislative initiatives.

Our Constitution did not only provide a political scheme of governance for the country, but it also provided a blue-print for social and economic transformation of the people. The Founding Fathers took extraordinary care while formulating the Constitution and provided a system of checks and balances among the three main institutions of democracy, *i.e.*, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. This is one of the characteristic features of our democratic set-up. It has provided for a system that makes a judicious blend of the principle of distribution of powers and the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty in such manner that we have the best of both, but without the absolute rigidity of either of the two. These provisions of the Constitution make it the Supreme Law of the Land, subjecting all the branches of governance to its overriding authority and control.

By taking important initiatives for democratic decentralization, we have largely succeeded in bringing Government closer to the people, thereby making it easier for the ordinary citizens to participate and exert influence in the decision-making process. When power is brought closer to the citizens, the political process becomes more tangible and transparent involving more people in the democratic processes. The passage of the 73rd and 74th Amendments to our Constitution, which gave a new life to *Panchayati Raj* system, were landmark initiatives in this direction. Bringing democracy closer to women, dalits and other marginalised classes, this experiment has proved to be extremely successful. Notably, the reservation of seats for women in the *Panchayat* elections as per the constitutional provisions as contributed immensely to the political empowerment of a large number of women who had earlier been outside realm of political participation.

A large number of progressive legislations have been enacted by our Parliament to nurture human dignity and fundamental rights of the citizens, for providing them access to information thus far denied to them and for ensuring employment and thereby to address rural poverty, among other things. A number of special agencies and commissions have also been set up with parliamentary initiatives to look into specific problems and issues related to human rights, women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, minorities, backward classes and other disadvantaged sections of our society like the workers in

the unorganised sectors, so that the benefits of a progressive and inclusive democracy accrue to all.

In the last six decades, we have indeed come a long way in the task of nation-building, in preserving the country's unity and integrity and in consolidating and strengthening our democratic institutions; but we still have miles to go before we are able to realize the dreams of our Founding Fathers for the social, economic and political emancipation of every citizen of our country. As we know, the achievement of economic democracy along with political democracy had been the cardinal concern of the country's leadership at the time of Independence, as they firmly believed that unless prosperity reached every nook and corner of our country, we cannot uphold the fundamentals of democracy in the long run.

But, unfortunately, we have not been successful in ensuring that the fruits of development reached the lower-most strata of the society. Poverty, illiteracy, high rates of infant and maternal mortality, adverse gender ratio, unemployment, poor health-care system, caste, gender and religion-based prejudices and incidences of farmers' suicides are issues that have remained as blots on our democracy. It is still a matter of great distress that we have not been able to ensure a decent living condition for our large working class. Our peasantry continues to fight the vagaries of nature, rigours of the feudal social system and global forces and is eking out a miserable existence, finding itself at the periphery of all the development that is just bypassing them.

Democratic practices could be undermined by inequalities, even when democratic institutions are well in place. A fair distribution of power and resources is the basic and fundamental requirement of democracy and as such inequality of any kind is a hindrance to its growth and consolidation. We cannot enjoy the full potential of being an IT superpower when millions of our people remain illiterate. Similarly, we cannot become a global economic power if millions of our rural homes are denied the basic facilities for a dignified human existence.

It is a strange paradox that while in the last decade, our economy grew at an average annual rate of about 7 per cent, about 40 per cent of the world's poor still live in India and at the same time the number of billionaires is growing. In spite of the completion of ten Five Year Plans and implementation of numerous developmental schemes, nearly one third of our population is living below the poverty line. More than a fifth of our population still do not have any access to quality health-care. With about a third of our population being illiterate, we are home

to the largest number of illiterates in the world. Only about 10 per cent of our University-eligible youth have the real opportunity for that. A country with such an unequal distribution of opportunities and wealth can hardly promise long-term security and stability. According to Prof. Amartya Sen, 'The biggest failure in India is social inequality; it takes its toll both directly–in terms of quality of life–and indirectly–in terms of reducing the economic opportunities that the people have.'

Democracy indeed needs social stability to succeed in its goals. The greatest threat to social stability emanates from poverty, illiteracy and ignorance of rights. Democratic consolidation is not possible unless a decisive battle against all social evils and economic backwardness is fought at every level. There has to be a paradigm shift in this context; we must change the course of our development in such a way that the benefits of the country's progress reach right down to the most disadvantaged sections of the society.

For democracy to be self-sustaining it has to be inclusive in every sense of the term. Gender disparity in terms of income distribution, access to resources and participation in the decision-making processes is, therefore, highly detrimental to democratic development. In India, half of our population consists of women and due to various societal and historical reasons, there is a glaring gender bias against women in all spheres of life. Our developmental efforts cannot be successful if we fail to make women equal partners in our nation-building endeavours. Our experience at various political and administrative levels has shown that women tend to do better in terms of participation in the decision-making process when they are trusted and empowered. As I said earlier, a major step in this direction was taken with the passage of the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments providing for reservation for women in local level democratic institutions.

I feel, women's participation and empowerment at all levels of the society is undoubtedly the key to propelling democracy forward. I hope, the revived interest in the proposed legislative initiative will be pursued to its logical conclusion and an effective legal remedy will be in place soon to ensure the due representation of women in our higher representative bodies. A large section of our population are looking forward to it with great interest today and my hope is that it will be a part of our Constitution during my tenure as the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Certainly, there are perils and pitfalls of democracy which do not relate much to the democratic institutions *per se* but to the democratic

practices. Today, there is a growing feeling in the country that our democratic practices are often being deeply compromised. The most vital process of elections themselves have been one such area. Though we have an impressive electoral system which has proved its credibility and resilience on several occasions; in most cases ensuring free and fair process, there are times when its fairness has been compromised in various ways.

The degeneration in the essentials of our electoral system caused by the negation of socio-political values poses a serious threat to our democracy. In this context, we need to address issues like corrupt electoral practices, criminalization of politics, the vicious role played by money and muscle power in deciding election results, inadequate representation of women and, more significantly, lack of voter participation and voter awareness. Though we had made several attempts to reform the electoral system from time to time, the desired result is not yet achieved. We need to remain vigilant to the growing need of revamping the country's electoral system and strive to address the issues in their entirety.

Yet another serious problem before us concerns the justice delivery system that we have in place in our country. An efficient and effective judicial system is one of the primary requirements for democracy to succeed. The legal system in India has sound institutional foundations incorporating all basic democratic principles of impartiality, secularism and equality before law. But, as we can see, in practice the functioning of our justice delivery system is at variance with certain democratic ideals because some organs of our Constitution are trying to encroach into others domain and thereby creating distortions. The backlog of millions of pending cases has virtually paralyzed our legal system. Legal proceedings generally take years to be completed apart from entailing large and mostly unaffordable expenses and are often far from intelligible for the average citizen. As a result, legal protection tends to remain beyond the effective reach of the people, mostly the poor. Those at the receiving end of the system end up with justice eluded because of inordinate delays and huge expenses, beyond the reach of the poor peasants, the dismissed workmen and the downtrodden.

The corrupt practices in our judicial system are frequently reported in the media. This, together with the high cost of litigation, has made the common man apprehensive about approaching the courts for redressal of any grievance. Not only have the courts become inaccessible and unaffordable for large sections of our population, the inordinately

slow justice delivery system has shaken the faith of our citizens in our judicial system itself.

If democracy in India is to take deep roots, the key elements of good governance have to be practised by all. Unfortunately, our administrative apparatus is afflicted with a number of evils eating into the very foundation of our governance system. We need to ensure good public administration by effecting appropriate institutional reforms, that can give people the scope they need to develop their skills and thus actively articulate their concerns and rights. Equitable distribution of the society's resources, curbing the abuse of power and corruption, and guaranteeing equality of all persons before the law through effective governance are fundamental to a well-functioning democracy.

Yet another area that warrants our focused attention is in addressing the rampant corruption that has afflicted our system. In fact, corruption is endemic at all levels and spheres of public life in India and it has become deeply embedded in our society. It is an accepted fact that corruption erodes the Rule of Law, hampers economic growth, distorts societal and human values and weakens the very edifice of democracy. In more recent times, corruption in high public offices has raised serious moral and political concerns. I believe that we must have sound institutional mechanisms in place to contain corruption, to strengthen accountability and to promote good governance. It will inevitably improve the quality of our democracy, and the effectiveness of its delivery mechanisms.

Failure to set and follow high ethical standards by political leadership, no doubt, would lead to erosion of public trust, diminishing community expectations and exacerbation of social divisions. Leaders in both the Government and the civil society have a duty and responsibility to always lead by example. Values are conveyed and supported not by words but by deeds.

In the past six decades, the political realities have undergone drastic changes. From the one-party dominant system, we have matured to successful running of coalition Governments' both at the Centre and in several of our States. It is, perhaps, a little known fact that as early as in late 1980s, Comrade EMS had predicted the onset of a long era of coalition politics in the country at the national level. Today, we are experiencing that reality. Under the changed scenario, it is essential that the political parties remain responsible for ensuring smooth functioning of the legislative institutions without which our system of parliamentary democracy will lose the faith and respect of

the people and the resultant cynicism and tension will weaken the entire constitutional edifice.

Politics in our country today is, unfortunately, increasingly becoming confrontational and adversarial. This is not in the interest *of* the health of democracy. All political parties, whether in the Government or in the Opposition, must view themselves as partners in development if they are serious about promoting and consolidating democracy in the real sense. It is time for us to move from confrontational politics to cooperative politics in the interest of our people and for strengthening our democracy.

We have always been proud of the fact that India is the perfect example of unity in diversity. But of-late, we find vested interests trying to twist this diversity to convert it into tools for political confrontation. Religion, caste and language have been used earlier also to garner support for political parties and we have seen how dangerous the consequences could be. Learning lessons from our own history, we must desist from rousing passions in the name of religion and caste in the interest of the unity and integrity of our country and for maintaining harmonious relations among all sections of society. In fact, democracy and secularism are inextricably intertwined. If we abandon one, the other will also go. The single-most defining element of Indian democracy is the acceptance and tolerance of all religions and granting explicit freedom to all its citizens to practise their faiths without violating the others' right to do so. Religion cannot be allowed to be mixed with politics as a shortcut to rouse popular passion, otherwise, the evil of communalism will again become a powerful force in our polity which will ultimately undermine our democratic fabric and militate against the basic principles governing our national life. In this context, it needs reiteration that secularism should not remain a mere ideal. It should be an article of faith for every single citizen of the country, for without secularism, we cannot facilitate a truly inclusive democracy and a united country.

Democracy requires profound commitment at every level and from every citizen and every organ of our democratic system. Democratic institutions are like tender saplings which, if not nurtured with diligence and care, can wither away. Our Parliament is the fountainhead of the people's will and aspirations. Parliament, being the supreme representative body of our country, has to function effectively without losing the trust of the people.

Regrettably, over the years, there has been a decline in the

quality and standards of behaviour of our elected representatives. The image associated with many elected representatives among the people is very negative which, in turn, cause to breed cynicism among the people about the efficacy of our political system itself. A large section of the people are beginning to feel that neither the political parties nor their representatives, specifically elected to serve them, are faithfully performing their expected roles. We urgently need to raise the esteem of our parliamentary institutions in the people's eyes by finding solutions to address all issues having a bearing on the quality of the work and behaviour of those elected to the representative bodies. As a member of Parliament for nearly four decades and as the Presiding Officer of the popular House of our Parliament, I have been witnessing the functioning of our parliamentary institutions very closely. On several occasions, I have been emphasizing the need for introducing the system of 'Recall' to deal with those members of the legislative bodies in our country, who function in a manner unbecoming of an elected representative of the people.

Friends, it is in this context that the role of the media which is considered the fourth pillar of democracy assumes special significance. Freedom of the Press is an integral part of the functioning of a representative democracy. Free media working with positive criticism can help ensure that the Government remains responsive to the urges and concerns of the people. Apart from this, the media serves a 'watch-dog' function by ensuring that the elected representatives carry out the wishes of those who elected them. Media have also a very constructive role to play by informing the people about their rights, by helping them to form opinion on the issues facing the country and by rousing them to play a more proactive role in the country's politics. Unfortunately, of-late, it appears that, propelled by narrow commercial interest, our mainstream media has surrendered that larger social role and have fallen for short-term gains, where market forces have a greater say in formulating their editorial policies.

The media is often seen taking partisan approaches, circulating half-truths in the garb of news and thus causing to reinforce prejudices and cynicism among the people. We can also discern a tendency among sections of the media of letting itself to be used as proxies in the battle between rival political groups, in the process sowing divisiveness rather than consensus, and suspicion rather than social trust. If such tendencies are not curbed, the media can become antithetical to democracy, contributing to the undermining of trust among our people towards our democratic institutions.

Since democracy requires an active participation of citizens, it is the responsibility of the media to keep citizens engaged in the business of governance by informing, educating and mobilizing the public. I would urge the media to keep their priorities right and play a very responsible role as opinion builders. They are, in fact, our partners in the preservation and consolidation of democracy and thus need to focus on issues that help in maintaining the unity of the country and in creating a new breed of informed and enlightened citizenry. It should be borne in mind that only a vibrant democracy can ensure the freedom of the Press.

Friends, democratic consolidation is not a one-time process. It is only through the committed efforts of all sections of polity and every institution associated with democracy that this process can be sustained meaningfully. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders to identify and curb all the negative tendencies that are causing erosion in our democratic values. In an attempt to occupy more space in the polity, no institution should do anything to discredit or to marginalize any other institution, particularly our core people's institutions. But, above all, it is the peoples' representatives and political parties and leaderships who have the greatest responsibility to shoulder.

Comrade EMS was a political leader of unimpeachable integrity. He dedicated his entire life to the furtherance of democratic values and to improve the conditions of the common masses. Rarely does one come across leaders with such foresight, vision and passionate commitment to public causes. On his birth centenary, let us pledge to keep alive his lofty ideals and to make renewed efforts, in consonance with the values enshrined in our Constitution, to further consolidate our democracy so as to ensure a dignified existence for the people of our country.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the Institute of Parliamentary Affairs of the Government of Kerala for organizing this Lecture in memory of Comrade EMS and for according me this great honour to share with this august gathering some of my views on the process of democratic consolidation in the context of our own country. I wish you all success in your endeavours towards the promotion of the philosophy and ideals of Comrade E.M.S. Namboodiripad, a great Leader in all senses of the term.

Thank you.

3

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

The 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at Cape Town, South Africa: The 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union took place at Cape Town, South Africa from 13 to 18 April 2008. The Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Assembly was led by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya; Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Jesudasu Seelam; Prof. Basudeb Barman; Dr. K. Malaisamy; and Smt. Preneet Kaur, all members of Parliament; and Shri R.K. Singh, Officer on Special Duty, Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Shri S. Bal Shekar, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, participated in the General Debate on *The political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of pushing back the frontiers of poverty.*

Smt. Preneet Kaur, was elected unanimously as a Substitute Regional Representative for a two-year term in the Co-ordinating Committee of the Women Parliamentarians.

The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha was re-elected as a Titular member in the Third Standing Committee to represent Asia-Pacific Group. Shri Jesudasu Seelam was re-elected as a Substitute member in the First Standing Committee from Asia-Pacific Group.

The Assembly mainly discussed the following subjects and adopted resolutions thereon:-

- The Role of Parliaments in Striking a Balance between National Security, Human Security and Individual Freedoms, and in Averting the Threat to Democracy (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security);
- Parliamentary Oversight of State Policies on Foreign Aid (Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade); and

- Migrant Workers, People Trafficking, Xenophobia and Human Rights (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)

The Assembly also adopted a resolution on the emergency item:

The role of parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in ensuring an immediate halt to the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in conflict areas and its environmental dimension, in facilitating the Palestinians' right to self-determination–particularly by ending the blockade in Gaza–and in accelerating the creation of a Palestinian state through viable peace processes.

The Assembly selected the following subjects for inclusion in the agenda of the 120th Assembly of IPU to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

- Advancing Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and Securing the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The Role of Parliaments (First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security);
- Climate Change, Sustainable Development Models, and Renewable Energies (Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade); and
- Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information (Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights).

Dr. K. Malaisamy, MP was chosen as a Co-Rapporteur in the Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights for the subject item, "Freedom of Expression and Right to Information" which was chosen on the basis of subject items proposed by India and the United Kingdom. India Group had proposed "Right to Information: Well-informed Citizenry a hallmark of Democracy" as subject item for the 120th IPU Assembly.

The Forum on "Shaping the Information Society: The Role of Parliaments and Legislators" in Geneva: The Forum on "Shaping the Information Society: The Role of Parliaments and Legislators" organized by the United Nations was held at Geneva on 14 and 15 May 2008. The Forum was attended by Shri Nikhil Kumar, MP & Chairman, Standing Committee on Information Technology, Lok Sabha and Shri Tathagata Satpathy, MP, Lok Sabha.

During the meeting, the following subjects were discussed:

- The United Nations system at work: multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- Tracking progress: Bridging the digital divide;
- Fulfilling parliamentary responsibilities;
- Organizational approaches in Parliaments;
- Bringing the information society to all;
- Ensuring equitable access;
- Guaranteeing fundamental rights in the Web 2.0 environment; and
- Protecting privacy in the Internet era

The Sixth General Assembly of the International Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology at Sofia, Bulgaria: The Sixth General Assembly of the International Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology (IPAIT) was held at Sofia, Bulgaria from 8 to 11 June 2008. The theme of the Assembly was "Information Technology and Ethics". Sarvashri S.S. Ahluwalia, MP (Rajya Sabha), and K.V. Thangka Balu, MP (Lok Sabha) represented India at the Conference. Shri Ajay Garg, Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

CPA Mid Year Executive Committee Meeting in Jersey: The Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association hosted by the States of Jersey, Parliament of English Channel Island was held from 21 to 26 April 2008. During the meeting, various issues were deliberated. These *inter alia* included the election of Vice-Chairperson, procedure for the election of the Chairperson, Reports from Planning and Review Sub-Committee and Finance Sub-Committee and appointment of a Non-Officer Trustee.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan as an alternate member *vice* Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Regional Representative, Shri Suresh Reddy and the Chairman, Karnataka Legislative Council, Prof. B.K. Chandershekhar. Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly attended the meeting in his capacity as the Chairperson of CPA.

The 20th Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Seminar on "Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy" in Ottawa: The 20th

Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Seminar on "Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy" was held in Ottawa, Canada from 8 to 14 June 2008 to give an opportunity to the newly elected members to participate in an intensive learning exercise in the parliamentary matters. The Seminar was attended by Smt. K. Rani, M.P. (Lok Sabha) as member of CPA Union Branch and Shri R.S. Raja Kannappan, MLA, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly as member of the State CPA Branch of CPA India Region.

CPA UK Branch Seminar on "International Parliamentary Governance": The United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association organized a Seminar on "International Parliamentary Governance" in London from 8 to 20 June 2008. The Seminar aimed at enhancing understanding of the issues relating to parliamentary governance. The topics discussed during the Seminar included (a) Governance of UK; (b) European Commission briefing on Governance, International Development, Trade, Climate Change, Education and Culture; (c) Power sharing in practice; (d) Chailenges from Climate Change; and (e) Accountability. Shri Suresh Kurup, MP (Lok Sabha) from India Union CPA Branch attended the Seminar. The Seminar also included visits to European Parliament at Brussels besides Liverpool and Belfast.

The 11th North Eastern Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Aizawl: The 11th North Eastern Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference on "Time Management and Promoting the Activities of Legislatures" was held in Aizawl from 27 to 30 May 2008. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee was invited to inaugurate the Conference. The Delegation led by Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee consisted of Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary General, Lok Sabha and Shri V.K. Agnihotri, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha. The delegation could not participate in the Conference due to unforeseen circumstances. However, the Inaugural Address of the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the Conference was delivered by the Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

Selection of Director (Finance & Administration) CPA Headquarters, London: The interview of the candidates short-listed by the various Regional Selection Boards for the post of Director (Administration and Finance), CPA Headquarters was held in London on 19 April 2008. Mr. David C. Broom from Australia was recommended for appointment as Director (Administration and Finance), CPA Headquarters, London.

Prof. Hiren Mukerjee Memorial Parliamentary Lecture instituted: Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen delivers Inaugural Address: Under an initiative taken by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the Parliament of India has instituted an Annual Parliamentary Lecture in honour of Prof. Hiren Mukerjee, one of India's most outstanding Parliamentarians who contributed immensely towards strengthening the democratic system.

Nobel Laureate and Lamont Professor at the Harvard University, Prof. Amartya Sen, delivered the Inaugural Prof. Hiren Mukerjee Memorial Parliamentary Lecture on the theme *'Demands of Social Justice'* in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 11 August 2008. The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, presided over the function. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, was the Chief Guest of the evening. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, delivered the Welcome Address and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary, proposed the Vote of Thanks. The Lecture was attended, among others, by Union Ministers; members of Parliament; Governors and Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories; the diplomatic corps; the media; academicians and other distinguished invitees.

During the function, the Vice-President of India, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, unveiled a portrait of Prof. Hiren Mukerjee in the Central Hall of Parliament. The portrait, painted by Shri Wasim Kapoor, was donated by the Government of West Bengal.

The Vice-President Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari presented a memento to Prof. Amartya Sen. The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh presented a shawl to Prof. Sen. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee presented to Prof. Sen a new publication titled, 'Parliament of India' brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat to mark the occasion. Prof. Sen, who was given an honorarium of Rs. one lakh, donated the entire amount to the *Pratichi India Trust.*

Parliament Museum: The Parliament Museum is witnessing, on an average 80 visitors daily. During the period 1 April to 30 June 2008, a total of 4,522 visitors visited the Museum. Apart from the general visitors, there were 656 students from 7 schools from all over the country and 253 Government officials, staff and college students. Besides, a number of present and former members of Parliament, members of State Legislatures, and foreign dignitaries/delegations also visited the Museum.

A German Parliamentary Delegation led by Dr. Ralf Brauksiepe visited the Museum on 19 May 2008.

Among other foreign dignitaries, Mr. Svein Ronald Hansen, Chairman, European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Norway, visited the Museum during the period.

Lord Swraj Paul, Member of House of Lords (U.K.); Shri Arijit Pasayat, Justice of the Supreme Court of India and Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj, Law Minister also paid a visit to the Parliament Museum.

During the period, the Parliament Museum has also set up a new Unit, a Conservation Laboratory for the preservation of rare documents and records of the Parliament Archives and Souvenirs.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 April to 30 June 2008.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a function was held on 14 April 2008, in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the United Progressive Alliance Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, several Union Ministers; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Pandit Motilal Nehru: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Motilal Nehru, a function was held on 6 May 2008. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha and Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal;

the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, Shri V. Narayanasamy; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a function was held on 8 May 2008, in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj Patil; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of *Swatantryaveer* Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, a function was held on 28 May 2008. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaswant Singh; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, Shri V. Narayanasamy; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Indian Parliamentary Delegations Going Abroad

Bulgaria: A 13-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee visited the Republic of Bulgaria from 16 to 20 June 2008. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri Rajendrasinh Ghanshyamsinh Rana *alias* Rajju Rana, Dip Gogoi, Silvius Condpan, Devidas Anandrao Pingle, Ravichandran Ayyulusamy, N.R. Govindarajar, all members of Parliament and Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. Shri Abhijit Kumar, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Meetings of Parliamentary Friendship Groups

India-Russian Federation: A meeting of India-Russian Federation Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Shri S.S. Dhindsa, MP and President of the Group was held on 16 April 2008, with the visiting 10-member Young Parliamentarians Delegation from the State Duma,

Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation headed by Mr. Victor Nefedov, Member of the State Duma. The meeting was followed by dinner hosted by the President of the Group in honour of the visiting Delegation.

The Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee earlier on the same day.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 April to 30 June 2008, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training organized the following courses/programmes:

Lecture Series: As part of the Lecture Series for members of Parliament, the following Lecture Sessions were organized:

(i) Lecture on "*Water and Sanitation in the context of the International Year of Sanitation*" by Ms. Lizzette Burgers, Chief of the Child Environment Programme, UNICEF, and Shri Kumar Alok, Senior Sanitation Specialist, UNICEF, on 23 April 2008; and

(ii) Lecture on "*Climate Change: Implications for India*" by Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Chairman, Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change and Director-General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) on 25 April 2008.

Study Visits: During the period the following study visits were organized: (i) Visit by Mr. G.G. Kariuki, Chairman, Kenya Institute of Parliamentary and Civic Studies on 2 April 2008; (ii) Visit by the Delegation from the Federation Council, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation from 28 to 30 April 2008; (iii) Visit by the Delegation led by Mr. Degefe Bula, Speaker of the House of Federation, Ethiopia on 7 May 2008; (iv) Visit by the Delegation of senior support staff of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Bahrain from 12 to 13 May 2008; (v) Attachment Programme for officers from the Parliament of Laos from 19 to 30 May 2008; (vi) Visit by Officers from the Parliament of Thailand on 21 May 2008; (vii) Visit by Officials of the Government of Nepal (through IIPA) on 2 June 2008; (viii) Visit by two Officials from the Parliament of Tanzania from 2 to 10 June 2008; and (ix) Visit by the two Secretaries-General of the Parliament of Afghanistan from 23 to 27 June 2008.

In addition, 7 Study Visits were conducted for the benefit of students/trainees/officers of various institutes/organizations.

Appreciation Courses: During the period, Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for: (i) Probationers of Indian Administrative Service from 5 to 9 May 2008, attended by 98 participants; and (ii) Probationers of Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME) from 26 to 30 May 2008, attended by 11 participants.

Training Programmes/Courses: The following Training Programmes were organized during the period: (i) Training Course for Officers/ Assistants of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats dealing with Questions and Legislative and Budgetary Processes from 19 to 23 May 2008, attended by 54 participants; and (ii) Officials of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats working in Financial Committees on 16 to 20 June 2008, attended by 24 participants.

Orientation Programme: An Orientation Programme for Media Persons covering the proceedings of Parliament was organized from 23 to 25 April 2008. The Programme, inaugurated by the Leader of the House in Lok Sabha and Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, was attended by 105 Media persons.

4

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instance of members submitting their resignation letters in the House and walking out from the House immediately: On 3 March 2008, Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao belonging to Telangana Rashtra Samithi and three other members of his party left the House in protest stating that the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government has not honoured their commitment for creation of a separate Telangana State.

A member who has been directed to withdraw from the House allowed to participate in the proceedings of the House after tendering unqualified apology in writing for his conduct in the House: On 10 March 2008, when matters of urgent public importance were being raised in the House, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, MP, who was continuously interrupting the proceedings, was directed by the Speaker to withdraw from the House. Shri Yadav thereupon withdrew from the House.

The Speaker later on announced in the House that he had permitted Shri Yadav to participate in the proceedings of the House as he had tendered an unqualified apology in writing for his conduct in the House.

Conduct of members in certain untoward incidents in the House: On 22 July 2008, during debate on the Motion of Confidence, some untoward incident happened in the House. The Speaker, thereafter, made the following observation:

> "Sometime back, when my distinguished colleague, honourable Deputy Speaker was presiding over the proceedings of the House, certain incidents have taken place, which, according to me, are most unfortunate. It is a very sad day in the history of Parliament that such a situation has happened. Thereafter, I called a meeting of the honourable Leaders. I am grateful to the honourable Leader of Opposition. He was very kindly present also.
>
> We have heard the three honourable members of the House. They had some complaints to make. I had requested them to put their complaints in writing to me. I assured them, I assured the Leaders and I assure the House that all possible

steps that are required in that connection will be taken by me as a custodian of this House. It is my duty to do that, and I seek the cooperation of all sections of the House. Please allow me to apply my judgment, look into the matter, and I can assure you nobody will be spared if found guilty."

Permission to members to exercise their votes from the Inner Lobby: On 22 July 2008, during discussion on the Motion of Confidence, the Speaker made the following observation regarding granting permission to some members to exercise their votes in the Division from the Inner Lobby:

"I wish to inform the honourable House that I have got a letter from the Bharatiya Janata Party asking for four honourable distinguished members being allowed to vote from the Inner Lobby. They are: our most respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, Shri Mahesh Kanodia, Shri Dharmendra and Shri Harischandra Chavan. The request is that they may be permitted to vote from the Inner Lobby as they are indisposed and not in a position to cast their votes through the automatic voting recording machine.

In view of the condition of the honourable members I have permitted them to exercise their vote by filling up vote recording slips from the Inner Lobby in whatever manner that is convenient to the distinguished members.

I am sure all of you will join me in wishing respected Vajpayeeji and all the other honourable members very good health, long life and early recovery."

However, Shri Dharmendara, MP voted from his seat in the Division.

Instance when the Chair allowed members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 22 July 2008, during discussion on Motion of Confidence in the Council of Ministers, the Chair permitted thirty one members to lay their written speeches and five members to lay some portions of their written speeches on the Table of the House.

5

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2008)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Budget Session of Parliament: The Second Part of the Thirteenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Thirteenth Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 15 April 2008. The two Houses were adjourned *sine die* on 5 May 2008. The President prorogued both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 10 May 2008.

Expansion of Union Cabinet: On 6 April 2008, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh inducted seven Ministers into his Council of Ministers. They are: Sarvashri M.S. Gill, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports; Jyotiraditya Scindia, Communications and Information Technology; Jitin Prasada, Steel; Raghunath Jha, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Santosh Bagrodia, Minister of State for Coal; V. Narayanasamy, Parliamentary Affairs and Planning; and Rameshwar Oraon, Tribal Affairs.

The Prime Minister also effected change in portfolio of some of the Ministers. The Parliamentary Affairs has been taken away from Information and Broadcasting Minister, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi and given to Overseas Indian Affairs Minister, Shri Vayalar Ravi. Also, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has been divested of Youth Affairs and Sports, but retains the charge of Panchayati Raj and Development of the North Eastern Region and Shri Gill has been given the Independent charge of Youth Affairs and Sports, as Minister of State.

The Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, also effected changes

in the portfolios of certain Ministers of State—Sarvashri Jairam Ramesh, Prithviraj Chavan, B.K. Handique and Pawan Kumar Bansal have been given additional charge of Power, Personnel and Public Grievances, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs, respectively. The charge of Parliamentary Affairs has been taken over from Shri Handique.

Besides, Shri Shakeel Ahmed has been shifted to Home from Communications and IT, and Smt. Kanti Singh relinquished the charge of Department of Heavy Industry to take up Tourism and Culture.

The Prime Minister also dropped six Ministers of State. They are: Sarvashri Suresh Pachouri (Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, and Parliamentary Affairs), Dasari Narayan Rao (Coal), M.V. Rajasekharan (Planning), T. Subbarami Reddy (Mines), Akhilesh Das (Steel) and Manikrao Gavit (Home).

Commencement of term of Rajya Sabha Members: The term of following members commenced on 3 April 2008: Sarvashri Prithviraj Chavan; Prakash Javadekar; Y.P. Trivedi; Murli Deora; Rajkumar Dhoot; Bharatkumar Raut; Janaradhan Madhavrao Waghmare; Balbir Punj; Mangala Kisan; Rama Chandra Khuntia; A.A. Jinnah; N. Balaganga; T.K. Rangarajan; G.K. Vasan; Ahmad Sayeed Malihabadi; Tarini Kanta Roy; Debabrata Biswas; Shyamal Chakraborty; Prasanta Chatterjee; Smt. Renubala Pradhan; Smt. Vasanthi Stanley; and Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan.

On 10 April 2008, following members took oath of office: Sarvashri Nandi Yellaiah; Mohd. Ali Khan; K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao; Nandamuri Harikrishna; Birendra Prasad Baishya; Biswajit Daimary; Shivanand Tiwari; N.K. Singh; Prem Chand Gupta; Sabir Ali; Motilal Vora; Shivpratap Singh; Natuji Halaji Thakor; Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala; Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar; Ishwar Singh; Shanta Kumar; Jai Prakash Narayan Singh; Prabhat Jha; Parimal Nathwani; Raghunandan Sharma; Rishang Keishing; Om Prakash Mathur; Dr. Bhubaneswar Kalita; Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy; Dr. C.P. Thakur; Dr. Ram Prakash; Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania; Dr. Prabha Thakur; Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya; Smt. T. Ratna Bai; and Smt. Maya Singh.

Sarvashri Thomas Sangma and Mukut Mithi's term of office commenced on 13 April 2008 and 27 May 2008, respectively.

On 19 June 2008, elections to 5 Rajya Sabha seats were held. The winners were Sarvashri R.C. Singh (CPI), Anil H. Lad and S.M. Krishna (both of INC), and Kore Prabhakara and M. Rama Jois (both of BJP). While the term of Shri R.C. Singh commenced on 25 June 2008, the term of other members commenced on 26 June 2008.

Disqualification of Rajya Sabha Member: On 15 April 2008, Rajya Sabha Chairman, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari disqualified Shri Jai Narain Prasad Nishad, (BJP) from the membership of the House, on the basis of a petition filed by BJP leader Smt. Sushma Swaraj against him on charges that he campaigned against the party. Shri Nishad's issue was referred to the Privileges Committee which had submitted its report in November 2007. Subsequently, he was also given a chance to appear before the Chairman and be heard personally, which he failed to do.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Members: On 15 April 2008, Rajya Sabha Chairman, Mr. Hamid Ansari accepted the resignation of Shri N. Jothi from membership of the House. Shri Jothi tendered his resignation after he quit the AIADMK and joined the DMK.

On 6 May 2008, Shri Akhilesh Das of the Indian National Congress (INC) resigned from the House.

Death of Rajya Sabha Member: On 1 May 2008, Kumari Nirmala Deshpande, a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha passed away.

Lok Sabha By-election Results: On 16 April 2008, the following were declared elected to the Lok Sabha, by-elections to which were held on 12 April 2008: Shri Hemant Khandelwal (BJP) from Betul (Madhya Pradesh) constituency; Shri Bhishm Shankar *alias* Khushal Tewari of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) from Khalilabad (Uttar Pradesh) constituency; and Shri Akbar Ahmad Dumpy (BSP) from Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh) constituency.

All the three members took oath/affirmation on 22 April 2008.

Withdrawal of Support: On 21 June 2008, the 17-member Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) withdrew support to the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Assembly By-election Results: By elections to 18 Assembly constituencies were held on 29 May 2008. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) won 7 seats while the INC and the TDP secured six and five seats, respectively.

ASSAM

Removal of Minister: On 3 June 2008, Chief Minister Shri Tarun Gogoi dropped Shri Ripun Bora, Panchayat and Rural Development

Minister, following his arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on bribery charge.

New Governor: On 26 June 2008, Shri Shiv Charan Mathur was appointed as the Governor. He was sworn in on 4 July 2008.

BIHAR

Expansion of Ministry: On 13 April 2008, the Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar expanded his Council of Ministers by inducting 17 Cabinet Ministers and 2 Ministers of State. The Cabinet Ministers sworn-in are: Sarvashri Giriraj Singh, Bhola Prasad Singh, Ramnarayan Mandal, Awadhesh Narain Singh, Nagmani, Jitan Ram Manjhi, Chedi Paswan, Dinesh Prasad, Damodar Rawat, Ramanand Singh, Hari Narayan Singh, Shahid Ali Khan, Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha, Dinesh Chandra Yadav, Ram Pravesh Rai, Hari Prasad Sao, and Smt. Renu Devi.

The Ministers of State sworn in are: Sarvashri Jamshed Ashraf and Vyasdeo Prasad.

The Chief Minister also dropped the following 10 Ministers from his Council of Ministers: Sarvashri Chandra Mohan Rai, Janardan Singh Sigriwal, Monazir Hasan, Rameshwar Paswan, Baijnath Prasad Mahato, Arjun Rai, Vishwa Mohan Kumar, Ajit Kumar, Manzar Alam and Smt. Suchitra Singh.

Resignation of Minister: On 17 May 2008, Transport Minister, Shri Ramanand Prasad Singh resigned from the Council of Ministers, after it came to light that he was chargesheeted in a corruption case about 17 years ago when he was a Government official. Governor Shri R.S. Gavai accepted the resignation.

New Governor: On 26 June 2008, Shri R.L. Bhatia was appointed as the Governor.

HARYANA

Assembly By-election Results: By-elections to three Assembly seats were held on 22 May 2008. On 25 May 2008, Shri Bhajan Lal of the Haryana Janhit Congress was declared elected from Mandi Adampur Assembly constituency.

Sarvashri Bhim Sain Mehta and Jagbir Singh Malik of the Indian National Congress were declared elected from Indri and Gohana Assembly constituencies, respectively.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Minister Sworn-in: On 6 June 2008, Shri B.R. Kundal, the first serving Chief Secretary, took oath as a Minister.

KARNATAKA

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 10, 16 and 22 May 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-110; Indian National Congress (INC)-80; Janata Dal (Secular)-28; and Others-7.

Assembly by-election results: On 25 May 2008, Shri J.D. Naik and Shri Anand Asnotikar of the Indian National Congress were declared elected from Bhatkal and Karwar Assembly constituencies respectively.

Shri Dinkar Shetty and Shri Sunil Hegde of the Janata Dal (S) were declared elected from Kumta and Haliyal Assembly constituencies respectively.

Shri Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri and Shri V.S. Patil of the BJP were declared elected from Sirsi and Yellapur Assembly constituencies, respectively.

New Chief Minister sworn in: On 30 May 2008, a 30-member BJP Ministry led by Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa was sworn-in.

The 29 others sworn-in as Cabinet Ministers were: Sarvashri Govind M. Karjol, K.S. Eswarappa, V.S. Acharya, C.M. Udasi, R. Ramachandra Gowda, R. Ashok, S.A. Ravindranath, G. Janardhana Reddy, Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri, B.N. Bacchegowda, G. Karunakara Reddy, Basavaraj Bommai, B. Sreeramulu, S. Suresh Kumar, Krishna Palemar, Revunaik Bilamagi, Venkataramanappa, Aravind Limbavali, Krishnaiah Shetty, P.M. Narendra Swamy, H. Halappa, D. Sudhakar, Goolihatti D. Shekar, M. Rudrappa Nirani, Lakshman Savadi, S.K. Bellubbi, Shivaraj Tangadagi, Dr. Mumtaz Ali Khan and Kumari Shobha Karandlaje.

KERALA

New Governor: On 26 June 2008, Shri R.S. Gavai was appointed as the Governor.

MADHYA PRADESH

Suspension of MLA: On 2 April 2008, Samajwadi Party suspended its MLA, Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh Bundela for violating the party whip during the recent Rajya Sabha polls in Madhya Pradesh.

MAHARASHTRA

Suspension of six MLAs: On 1 April 2008, the following six

members were suspended for a year from the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for unruly behaviour: Sarvashri Arjun Khotkar of the Shiv Sena, Raj Purohit and Sanjay Kute of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Wamanrao Chatap of the Swatantra Bharat Paksha and Bachu Kadu and Sanjay Chavan (both Independents).

MEGHALAYA

New Governor: On 26 June 2008, Shri R.S. Mooshary was appointed as the Governor.

PUNJAB

Assembly By-Election Result: On 25 May 2008, Shri Inderbir Singh Bolaria of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) was declared elected from Amritsar South Assembly constituency, by-election to which was held on 22 May 2008.

SIKKIM

New Governor: On 26 June 2008, Shri Balmiki Prasad Singh was appointed as the Governor.

UTTAR PRADESH

Assembly By-election Results: On 16 April 2008, the Bahujan Samaj Party won all the three Assembly seats, by-elections to which were held on 12 April 2008. The winners were: Sarvashri Brij Singh *alias* Braj Kunwar (Karnailganj), Rajpal Tyagi (Muradnagar) and Smt. Rajni Tiwari (Bilgram).

Expansion of Cabinet: On 1 May 2008, Chief Minister Km. Mayawati inducted two Ministers and elevated two Ministers of State (with Independent charge) to the rank of Cabinet Ministers. Sarvashri Rajpal Tyagi and Subhash Pandey took oath as the Cabinet Ministers.

The Minister of State for Forest and Wildlife (Independent charge), Sarvashri Fateh Bahadur Singh and Minister of State for Elections (Independent charge), Ramhet Bharti were elevated to the rank of Cabinet Ministers.

Removal of Minister: On 8 June 2008, Minister of State (Independent charge) for Fisheries, Shri Jamuna Prashad Nishad was removed from the Cabinet by Chief Minister Mayawati.

UTTARAKHAND

Minister Elevated: On 16 June 2008, the Minister of State for

Social Welfare, Home and Freedom Fighters, Shri Ajay Tamta was elevated to the Cabinet rank.

EVENTS ABROAD

ARMENIA

New President and Prime Minister: On 9 April 2008, Mr. Serzh Sarkisian was sworn in as the new President. On the same day, Mr. Serzh Sarkisian appointed Mr. Tigran Sargsyan as the new Prime Minister.

BHUTAN

New Prime Minister: On 10 April 2008, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk appointed Mr. Jigme Yoser Thinley as the new Prime Minister.

BOTSWANA

New President: On 1 April 2008, Mr. Festus Mogae voluntarily stepped down as President and handed over the power to his Vice-President, Lt-Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama.

CHAD

New Prime Minister: On 16 April 2008, President Mr. Idriss Deby dismissed Mr. Nouradine Delwa Kassiré Koumakoye as the Prime Minister and replaced him with Mr. Youssouf Saleh Abbas.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

New President: On 16 May 2008, Mr. Leonel Fernandez Reyna of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) was elected for the third consecutive term as the President.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

President re-elected: On 17 April 2008, Mr. Gaston Tong Sang was re-elected as the President for the second time.

GEORGIA

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 150-seat Parliament (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 21 May 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: United National Movement for a Victorious Georgia: 119; United Opposition (National Council-New

Rights): 17; Christian Democratic Movement: 6; Georgian Labour Party: 6; and Republican Party of Georgia: 2.

GUINEA

New Prime Minister: On 20 May 2008, President Mr. Lansana Conté dismissed Mr. Lansana Kouyate as Prime Minister and appointed Mr. Ahmed Tidiane Souare as the new Prime Minister.

IRAN

New Speaker: On 28 May 2008, Mr. Ali Larijani was elected as the Speaker of the new *Majlis* (the Unicameral Legislature).

IRELAND

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 6 May 2008, Mr. Bertie Ahern resigned as the Prime Minister.

New Prime Minister: On 7 May 2008, Mr. Brian Cowen was elected as the new Prime Minister.

ITALY

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 630-seat Chamber of Deputies and the 315-seat Senate (the lower and upper Houses of the Federal Legislature) were held on 13 and 14 April 2008.

The party position following the elections to the 630-seat Chamber of Deputies is as follows: People of Freedom: 276; Northern League: 60; Movement for Autonomy: 8; Democratic Party: 217; Italy of Values: 29; Union of the Democratic Centre: 36; and Others: 4.

The party position following the elections to the 315-seat Senate is as follows: People of Freedom: 147; Northern League: 25; Movement for Autonomy: 2; Democratic Party: 118; Italy of Values: 14; Union of the Democratic Centre: 3; and Others: 6.

New Speakers of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies: On 29 April 2008, Mr. Renato Schifani was elected the Speaker of the Senate and on 30 April 2008, Mr. Gianfranco Fini was elected as the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

New Prime Minister: On 8 May 2008, Mr. Silvio Berlusconi was elected as the Prime Minister.

KUWAIT

New Prime Minister: On 28 May 2008, Shaikh Nasser al-Mohammad

al-Ahmad al-Sabah was appointed as the new Prime Minister by the Amir, Shaikh Sabah.

MAURITANIA

New Prime Minister: On 6 May 2008, Mr. Yahia Ould Ahmed El Ouakef was appointed as the new Prime Minister.

MONTENEGRO

New President: On 6 April 2008, Mr. Filip Vujanovic was elected as the President.

NEPAL

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 575-member Constituent Assembly were held on 10 April 2008.

The party position following the elections is as follows: Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist: 220; Nepali Congress party: 110; United Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist and Leninist: 103; Madhesi People's Rights Forum: 52; Terai-Madhesh Democratic Party: 20; Sadbhavana Party: 9; Rastriya Prajatantra Party: 8; Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist and Leninist: 8; Jana Morcha Nepal: 7; Communist Party of Nepal-United: 5; Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party: 4; Rastriya Janamorcha: 4; Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal: 4; Rastriya Janshakti Party: 3; Sanghiya Loktantrik Rastriya Manch: 2; Nepal Sadbhavana Party: 2; Rastriya Janamukti Party: 2; Nepali Janata Dal: 2; Communist Party of Nepal: 2; Dali Janajati Party: 1; Nepal Rastriya Party: 1; Samajbadi Prajatantrik Janata Party: 1; Chure Bhawar Rastriya Ekta Party: 1; Nepal Loktantrik Samajbadi Dal: 1; Nepal Paribar Dal: 1; and Independents: 2.

PARAGUAY

New President: Mr. Fernando Lugo, was elected to the post of President, election to which was held on 20 April 2008.

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 80-seat Chamber of Deputies (the Lower House of the Bicameral Legislature) and 45-seat Senate were held on 20 April 2008.

The party position following the elections to 80-seat Chamber of Deputies is as follows: National Republication Association-Colorado Party: 30; Authentic Radical Liberal Party: 29; National Union of Ethical Citizens: 15; Beloved Fatherland party: 4; Popular Movement Tekojoja: 1; and Democratic Progressive Party: 1.

The party position following the elections to 45-seat Senate is as follows: National Republication Association-Colorado Party: 15; Authentic Radical Liberal Party: 14; National Union of Ethical Citizens: 9; Beloved Fatherland party: 4; Party for a Country of Solidarity: 1; Popular Movement Tekojoja: 1; and Democratic Progressive Party: 1.

RUSSIA

New President: On 7 May 2008, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev was sworn in as the new President.

New Prime Minister: On 8 May 2008, Mr. Vladimir Putin was confirmed as the new Prime Minister.

SERBIA

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 250-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 11 May 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: For a European Serbia: 102; Serbian Radical Party: 78; Democratic Party of Serbia-New Serbia: 30; Socialist Party of Serbia: 20; Liberal Democratic Party: 13; Hungarian Coalition: 4; List for Sandzak: 2; Albanian Coalition of Presevo Valley: 1.

SOUTH KOREA

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 299-member National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 9 April 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: Grand National Party: 153; United New Democratic Party: 81; Liberty Forward Party: 18; Park Geun Hye Coalition: 14; Democratic Labour Party: 5; Renewal of Korea Party: 3; and Independents: 25.

6

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

Before its creation as a State, Arunachal Pradesh was part of the State of Assam. "Dafla" community was listed as Scheduled Tribe in the State of Assam by the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. After the creation of Arunachal Pradesh as a State, "Dafla" community was mentioned in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh at Serial Number 4 by the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. Currently, 16 communities exist in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh including "Dafla".

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh had been recommending for long that the name "Nyishi" be substituted in place of "Dafla" in the Scheduled Tribes list of the State since "Dafla" is a derogatory term and was given to the "Nyishi" community by the outsiders. A change was, therefore, required in the Scheduled Tribes list of Arunachal Pradesh inasmuch as in place of the existing entry "Dafla", the name "Nyishi" was to be inserted in order to enable the "Nyishi" community to be listed by its correct name.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 19 March 2008. The President assented to it on 1 April 2008.

The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry was established in 1964 primarily with the objectives to develop patterns of teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education so as to establish and demonstrate high standards of education. The Institute has been providing quality education and excellent patient care delivery services over the years, however, it could not grow due to constraints in the process of manpower selection, lack of academic autonomy, lack of flexibility in administrative and financial powers, commensurate with other institutions like, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, (AIIMS) New Delhi and Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, (PGIMER) Chandigarh.

It was proposed to make the Institute a statutory body corporate and declare it as an institution of national importance under Entry 64 of List I of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution so that it may develop as a high level institution of medical education and research on the pattern of the AIIMS, and the PGIMER.

This Bill aimed to empower the Institute with academic autonomy to develop its own curriculum, set new trends in medical education and research and award its own degrees and also enable it to have appropriate delegated administrative and financial powers. The conferring of the

statutory status on this Institute would enable it to grow into a model centre of excellence.

The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008, which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 23 and 29 April 2008, respectively. The President assented to it on 16 May 2008.

We reproduce here the texts of the above Acts.

—Editor

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 *to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title:* (*1*) This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2008.

2. *Amendment of Part XVIII of Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.* In the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, in PART XVIII relating to the State of Arunachal Pradesh, for entry 4, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

"4. Nyishi".

THE JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, PUDUCHERRY BILL, 2008

An Act to declare the Institution known as the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement. (1)* This Act may be called the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Act, *2008.*

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. *Declaration of Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical*

Eduction and Research Puducherry, as an institution of national importance. Whereas the objects of the institution known as the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry in the Union territory of Puducherry are such as to make the institution one of national importance, it is hereby declared that the institution known as the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry is an institution of national importance.

3. *Definitions.* In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Fund" means the Fund of the Institute referred to in section 16;

(b) "Governing Body" means the Governing Body of the Institute;

(c) "Institute" means the institution known as the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, incorporated under this Act;

(d) "member" means a member of the Institute;

(e) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(f) "specified" means specified by regulations made under this Act.

4. *Incorporation of Institute.* The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, an Institute functioning under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is hereby constituted a body corporate by the name aforesaid and as such body corporate, it shall have perpetual succession and a common seal with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to contract and shall, by that name, *sue* and be *sued.*

5. *Composition of Institute.* (*1*) The Institute shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry or Department of Health and Family Welfare, *ex officio;*

(b) the Vice-Chancellor of the Puducherry University, *ex officio;*

(c) the Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Tamil Nadu, *ex officio;*

(d) the Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, *ex officio;*

(e) the Director of the Institute, *ex officio;*

(f) Chief Secretary, Government of Puducherry, *ex officio;*

(g) Secretary to the Government of India or his nominee (not below the rank of Joint Secretary) in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, *ex officio;*

(h) Secretary to the Government of India or his nominee (not below the rank of Joint Secretary) in the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, *ex officio;*

(i) seven persons of whom one shall be a non-medical scientist representing the Indian Science Congress Association, to be nominated by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed;

(j) four representatives of the medical faculties of Indian Universities to be nominated by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed; and

(k) three Members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected from among themselves by the members of the House of the People and one from among themselves by the members of the Council of States.

(*2*) It is hereby declared that the office of member of the Institute shall not disqualify its holder for being chosen as, or for being, a member of either House of Parliament.

6. *Term of office of, and vacancies among members. (1)* Save as otherwise provided in this section, the term of office of a member shall be five years from the date of his nomination or election.

(*2*) The term of office of a member elected under clause *(k) of* sub-section *(1)* of section 5 shall come to an end as soon as he becomes a Minister or Minister of State or Deputy Minister or the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha or the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha or ceases to be a member of the House from which he was elected.

(*3*) The term of office of an *ex officio* member shall continue so long as he holds the office by virtue of which he is such a member.

(*4*) The term of office of a member nominated or elected to fill a casual vacancy shall continue for the remainder of the term of the member in whose place he is nominated or elected.

(*5*) An out-going member other than a member elected under clause *(k)* of sub-section *(1)* of section 5 shall continue in office until another person is nominated as a member in his place or for a period of three months, whichever is earlier:

Provided that the Central Government shall nominate a member in

place of an out-going member within the said period of three months.

(*6*) An out-going member shall be eligible for re-nomination or re-election.

(*7*) A member may resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Central Government but he shall continue in office until his resignation is accepted by that Government.

(*8*) The manner of filling vacancies among members shall be such as may be prescribed.

7. *President of Institute, his powers and functions. (1)* There shall be a President of the Institute who shall be nominated by the Central Government from among the members other than the Director of the Institute.

(*2*) The President shall exercise such powers and discharge such functions as are laid down in this Act or as may be prescribed.

8. *Allowances of President and members.* The President and other members shall receive such allowances from the Institute as (may be prescribed.

9. *Meetings of Institute.* The Institute shall hold its first meeting at such time and place as may be appointed by the Central Government and shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at the first meeting as may be laid down by that Government; and thereafter, the Institute shall meet at such times and places and observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business including quorum at its meetings as may be specified.

10. *Governing Body and other committees of Institute. (1)* There shall be a Governing Body of the Institute which shall be constituted by the Institute in such manner as may be specified:

Provided that the number of persons who are not members of the Institute shall not exceed one-third of the total membership of the Governing Body.

(*2*) The Governing Body shall be the executive committee of the Institute and shall exercise such powers and discharge such functions as the Institute may specify in this behalf.

(*3*) The President of the Institute shall be the Chairperson of the Governing Body and as Chairperson thereof he shall exercise such powers and discharge such functions as may be specified.

(*4*) The procedure to be followed in exercise of its powers and discharge of its functions by the Governing Body, and the term of office of, and the manner of filling vacancies among the members of the Governing Body shall be such as may be specified.

(*5*) Subject to such control and restrictions as may be prescribed, the Institute may constitute as many standing committees and as many *ad hoc* committees as it thinks fit for exercising any power or discharging any function of the Institute or for inquiring into, or reporting or advising upon, any matter which the Institute may refer to them.

(*6*) The Chairperson and members of the Governing Body and the Chairperson and the members of a standing committee or an *ad hoc* committee shall receive such allowances, as may be specified.

11. *Staff of Institute. (1)* There shall be a chief executive officer of the Institute who shall be designated as the Director of the Institute and shall, subject to such rules as may be prescribed, be appointed by the Institute:

Provided that the first Director of the Institute shall be appointed by the Central Government.

(*2*) The Director shall act as the Secretary to the Institute as well as the Governing Body.

(*3*) The Director shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

(*4*) The Director shall exercise such powers and discharge such functions as may be specified, or as may be delegated to him by the Institute or the President of the Institute or the Governing Body or the Chairperson of the Governing Body.

(*5*) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, the Institute may appoint such number of other officers and employees as may be necessary for the exercise of its powers and discharge of its functions and may determine the designations and grades of such other officers and employees.

(*6*) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, the Director and other officers and employees of the Institute shall be entitled to such salary and allowances and shall be governed by such conditions of service in respect of leave, pension, provident fund and other matters as may be specified.

12. *Objects of Institute.* The objects of the Institute shall be–

(a) to develop patterns of teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education in all its branches so as to demonstrate a high standard of medical education;

(b) to bring together, as far as may be, in one place educational facilities of the highest order for the training of personnel in all important branches of health activity; and

(c) to attain self-sufficiency in postgraduate medical education to meet the country's needs for specialists and medical teachers.

13. *Functions of Institute.* With a view to the promotion of the objects specified in section 12, the Institute may—

(a) provide for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in the science of modern medicine and other allied sciences, including physical and biological sciences;

(b) provide facilities for research in various branches of such sciences;

(c) provide for the teaching of humanities;

(d) conduct experiments in new methods of medical education, both undergraduate and postgraduate, in order to arrive at satisfactory standards of such education;

(e) specify courses and curricula for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies;

(f) notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, establish and maintain—

(i) one or more medical colleges with different departments, including a department of preventive and social medicine, sufficiently staffed and equipped to undertake not only undergraduate medical education but also postgraduate medical education in different subjects,

(ii) one or more well-equipped hospitals,

(iii) a dental college with such institutional facilities for the practice of dentistry and for the practical training of students as may be necessary,

(iv) a nursing college sufficiently staffed and equipped for the training of nurses,

(v) rural and urban health organisations which will form centres for the field training of the medical, dental and nursing students of the Institute as well as for research into community health problems, and

(vi) other institutions for the training of different types of health workers, such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, drug analysts and medical technicians of various kinds;

(g) train teachers from different medical colleges in India;

(h) hold examinations and grant such degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions and titles in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education as may be laid down in the regulations;

(i) institute, and appoint persons to, professorships, readerships, lecturerships and posts of any description in accordance with regulations;

(j) receive grants from the Government and gifts, donations, benefactions, bequests and transfers of properties, both movable and immovable, from donors, benefactors, testators or transferors, as the case may be;

(k) deal with any property belonging to, or vested in, the Institute in any manner which is considered necessary for promoting the objects specified in section 12;

(l) demand and receive with the prior approval of the Central Government such fees and other charges as may be specified:

Provided that such fees and other charges payable by the students shall in no case exceed the fees and other charges specified by a medical Institute of the Central Government;

(m) reserve at least twenty seats out of every seventy-five seats in undergraduate courses in the institute for local applicants;

(n) provide free treatment to the poor patients in the same manner as are being provided by a medical Institute of the Central Government;

(o) construct quarters for its staff and allot such quarters to the staff in accordance with such regulations as may be made in this behalf;

(p) borrow money, with the prior approval of the Central Government, on the security of the property of the Institute;

(q) do all such other acts and things as may be necessary to further the objects specified in section 12.

14. *Vesting of property.* The properties of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry which vested in the Central Government shall, on the commencement of this Act, vest in the Institute.

15. *Payment of Institute.* The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the Institute in each financial year such sums of money and in such manner as may be considered necessary by that Government for the exercise of its powers and discharge of its functions under this Act.

16. *Fund of Institute.* (*1*) The Institute shall maintain a Fund to which shall be credited-

(a) all moneys provided by the Central Government;

(b) all fees and other charges received by the Institute;

(c) all moneys received by the Institute by way of grants, gifts, donations, benefactions, bequests or transfers; and

(d) all moneys received by the Institute in any other manner or from any other source.

(*2*) All moneys credited to the Fund shall be deposited in such banks or invested in such manner as the Institute may, with the approval of the Central Government, decide.

(*3*) The Fund shall be applied towards meeting the expenses of the Institute including ,expenses incurred in the exercise of its powers and discharge of its functions under section 13.

17. *Budget of Institute.* The Institute shall prepare in such form and at such time every year a budget in respect of the financial year next ensuing showing the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Institute and shall forward to the Central Government such number of copies thereof as may be prescribed.

18. *Accounts and audit.* (*1*) The Institute shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts including the balance-sheet in such form as the Central Government may, by rules prescribe, and in accordance with such general directions as may be issued by that Government, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(*2*) The accounts of the Institute shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any expenditure incurred by him in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Institute to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(*3*) The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Institute shall have the same rights, privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India has in

connection with the audit of the Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect the offices of the Institute as well as of the institutions established and maintained by it.

(*4*) The Accounts of the Institute as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or any other person appointed by him in this behalf together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Central Government and that Government shall cause the same to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

19. *Annual report.* The Institute shall prepare for every year a report of its activities during that year and submit the report to the Central Government in such form and on or before such date as may be prescribed and a copy of this report shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within one month of its receipt.

20. *Pension and provident funds.* (*1*) The Institute shall constitute for the benefit of its officers, teachers and other employees in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be specified by regulations, such pension and provident funds as it may deem fit.

(*2*) Where any such pension or provident fund has been constituted, the Central Government may declare that the provisions of the Provident Funds Act, 1925, shall apply to, such fund as if it were a Government Provident Fund.

21. *Authentication of orders and instruments of Institute.* All orders and decisions of the Institute shall be authenticated by the signature of the Director or any other member authorised by the Institute in this behalf and all other instruments shall be authenticated by the signature of such officers as may be authorised by the Institute.

22. *Acts and proceedings not to be invalidated by vacancies, etc.* No act done or proceeding taken by the Institute, Governing Body or any standing or *ad hoc* committee under this Act shall be questioned on the ground merely of the existence of any vacancy in, or defect in the constitution of, the Institute, Governing Body or such standing or *ad hoc* committee.

23. *Grant of medical degrees, diplomas, etc. by Institute.* Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Institute shall have the power to grant medical, dental, nursing degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions and titles under this Act.

24. *Recognition of medical qualifications granted by Institute.* Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the Dentist Act, 1948, the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the medical degrees and diplomas, dental degrees and nursing degrees granted by the Institute under this Act shall be recognised medical qualifications for the purposes of the Acts aforesaid and shall be deemed to be included in the Schedules to the respective Acts.

25. *Control by Central Government.* The Institute shall carry out such directions as may be issued to it from time to time by the Central Government for the efficient administration of this Act.

26. *Resolution of differences.* If in, or in connection with, the exercise of its powers and discharge of its functions by the Institute under this Act, any dispute arises between the Institute and the Central Government, the decision of the Central Government thereon shall be final.

27. *Returns and information.* The Institute shall furnish to the Central Government such reports, returns and other information as that Government may require from time to time.

28. *Transfer of service of existing employees.* (*1*) On and from the date of commencement of this Act, every employee holding a post in the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducheny, before that date, shall hold the post in the Institute by the same tenure, and upon the same terms and conditions of service including remuneration, leave, provident fund, retirement and other terminal benefits as he would have held such post as if this Act had not been passed and shall continue to do so as an employee of the Institute for a period of one year from the date of the commencement of this Act, unless he, within the said period of one year, opts not to be an employee of the Institute or until his tenure, remuneration or other terms and conditions of service are duly altered by the regulations:

Provided that the officers of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry belonging to the Central Health Service, who opts to be an employee of the Institute then, his appointment, pay, allowances and other terms and conditions of service shall be such as may be prescribed.

(*2*) Every person, who opts not to be an employee of the Institute within the period so specified, shall be governed by the rules and orders as are applicable to the Central Government officers and employees of equivalent rank.

(*3*) Subject to the provisions of this section, the tenure, remuneration and other terms and conditions of service including pension of any employee of the Institute shall not be altered to his disadvantage without the previous approval of the Central Government.

29. *Power to make rules.* (*1*) The Central Government, after consultation with the Institute, may by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act:

Provided that consultation with the Institute, shall not be necessary on the first occasion of making of rules under this section, but the Central Government shall take into consideration the suggestions which the Institute may make in relation to the amendment of such rules after they are made.

(*2*) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(*a*) the manner of nomination of members under clauses *(j)* and (*k*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 5;

(b) the manner of filling vacancies under sub-section (*8*) of section 6;

(*c*) the powers and functions to be exercised and discharged by the President of the Institute under section 7;

(*d*) the allowances to be paid to the President and other members of the Institute under section 8;

(*e*) the control and restrictions in relation to the constitution of standing and *ad hoc* committees under sub-section (*5*) of section 10;

(f) the tenure of office, salaries and allowances and other conditions of service of the Director and other officers and employees of the Institute appointed by the Institute under section 11;

(*g*) the form in which, and the time at which, the budgets and reports shall be prepared by the Institute under section 17;

(*h*) the form of annual statement of accounts including balance-sheet under sub-section (*1*) of section 18.

(i) the form of annual report under section 19;

(*j*) any other matter which has to be or may be prescribed by rules.

30. *Power to make regulations.* (*1*) The Institute with the previous approval of the Central Government may, by notification in the Official

Gazette, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder to carry out the purposes of this Act, and without prejudice to the generality of this power, such regulations may provide for—

(a) the summoning and holding of meetings, other than the first meeting, of the Institute, the time and place where such meetings are to be held and the conduct of business at such meetings under section 9;

(b) the manner of constituting the Governing Body and standing and *ad hoc* committees, the term of office of, and the manner of filling vacancies therein, the allowances to be paid to the members and the procedure to be followed by the Governing Body; standing and *ad hoc* committees in the conduct of their business, exercise of their powers, discharge of their functions under section 10;

(c) the powers and duties of the Director and other officers and employees of the Institute under sub-sections (*3*) and (*4*) and other conditions of service under sub-section (*5*) of section 11;

(d) the power of the Institute under section 13, to specify—

(i) courses and curricula for undergraduate and postgraduate studies;

(ii) hold examination and grant degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions and titles under clause *(h);*

(iii) the professorships, readerships, lecturerships and other posts which may be instituted and persons who may be appointed to such posts under clause *(i);*

(iv) the management of the properties of the Institute under clause *(k);*

(v) the fees and other charges which may be demanded and received by the Institute under clause (*l*);

(e) the manner in which, and the conditions subject to which, pension and provident funds may be constituted for the benefit of officers, teachers and other employees of the Institute under sub-section (*1*) of section 20;

(f) any other matter for which under this Act provisions may be made by regulations.

(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (*1*), the first regulations under this Act shall be made by the Central Government; and any regulations so made may be altered or rescinded by the Institute in exercise of its powers under sub-section (*1*).

31. *Laying of rules and regulations before Parliament.* Every rule and every regulation made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or regulation or both Houses agree that the rule or regulation should not be made, the rule or regulation shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or regulation.

32. *Power to remove difficulties.* (*1*) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provision not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section, after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(*2*) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

7

SESSIONAL REVIEW

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

THIRTEENTH SESSION

The Thirteenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 25 February 2008 was adjourned *sine die* on 5 May 2008. (The House was adjourned from 19 March to 15 April 2008 to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House.) The House was prorogued on 10 May 2008.

A résumé of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period from 15 April to 5 May 2008 is given below:*

A. DISCUSSIONS / STATEMENTS

Regarding situation arising out of continued rise in the prices of essential commodities and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto: Initiating a discussion under Rule 193 in the House on 16 April 2008, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta of the Communist Party of India said that there were innumerable issues before the country and the most crucial one was the price rise. He said that inflation remained unabated and the galloping price rise had spiralled to 7.14 per cent. Price rise was becoming the most agonizing ordeal for the common people of the country. After the Budget, there was 20 per cent increase in the price of food articles. He said that the policy of the Government led to the inflation. At the moment in the country, the demand and supply did not interact to determine the market price. Price was determined by the hoarders and the black marketeers. The Government did not target the business houses who were suspected

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* For résumé of the important discussions, etc., held during the period from 25 February to 19 March 2008, *see* the *Journal of Parliamentary Information,* Vol. LIV, No.2, June 2008, pp. 210-235

of manipulating the price of the foodstuff of the country. At this juncture, the Public Distribution System (PDS) should have been strengthened to bring down the prices. But it was in a shambles. The Government had not revived agriculture so as to increase the food production. Agriculture subsidy had been more or less withdrawn. He opined that the Government should have taken pre-emptive measures to ensure that the price rise did not become so critical. Enquiring about the Government's performance during the last four years, he stated that the Government should own all the responsibility and not remain helpless.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Basudeb Acharia of the CPI(M) said that the biggest failure of the UPA Government was its inability to control and contain the rising prices of almost all the essential commodities. In the Common Minimum Programme, the UPA Government promised that it would work out a comprehensive strategy for food and nutrition security and the objective would be to move towards universal food security system. He said that this, however, remained unfulfilled even today. Although there was an increase of food subsidy, the inflation was hovering around 7.41 per cent, which meant that the food subsidy being provided had been reduced in actual terms. To overcome the rising prices of essential commodities, he suggested that the PDS should be expanded; future trading in 25 agricultural commodities should be banned; custom and excise duties on oil should be cut and retail prices of petrol and diesel should be reduced. He also suggested that stringent action should be taken against hoarding of essential commodities by strengthening the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act to empower the State Governments to deal with hoarding and black-marketing.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) said that the Union Government had miserably failed to control the rising prices of the essential commodities which had hit the poor man badly. High inflation impeded economic growth and it was inimical to social justice. It was now necessary that the Government should come forward to make stringent laws to control the hoarders and the black marketeers. PDS had to be made universal and effective and some more essential commodities

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Sachin Pilot, Mohan Singh, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Ramesh Dube, Chandrakant Khaire, M.A. Kharabela Swain, Sandeep Dikshit, A. Krishnaswamy, Madhusudan Mistry, Avinash Rai Khanna, Ganesh Singh, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Smt. Kiran Maheshwari, Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan and Smt. Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha

should be included in its ambit. To combat inflation, he suggested that it was also necessary to lower all Government duties in petroleum fuels and to strengthen the rupee against the dollar and lowering interest rates. There should be more investment in agriculture, he added.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that, irrespective of ideology, India was affected by the global trends. No country was self-sufficient in every item and India also had to import seventy-five per cent of her crude oil requirement as well as other items including edible oils, pulses, fertilizers, etc. The world trend of rising prices of crude oil, palm oil, etc. was affecting India and there was very little the Government could do to roll back these prices because India was importer of these commodities. He said that there were many things within the control of the Government, while there were certain things which were not under its control for which other steps need to be taken to moderate the impact of the high prices. Financial turbulence in the world had also cast its shadow on other markets like commodity markets, credit markets, food markets, etc. This had really triggered a very different situation in the last six weeks.

Regarding the steps that the Government was contemplating to combat inflation, the Minister said that the Government could intervene through fiscal and monetary policies and through supply side measures. The investment in agriculture had increased from 10.2 to 12.5 per cent in the last four years. The Government had announced the National Food Security Mission and a number of steps were being taken to augment production so that the country would not be dependent on importing essential food items. On the monetary side, the Minister said that the Reserve Bank of India had taken a number of steps. It had increased the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) on eight occasions. The Government had also taken some administrative measures. It would give powers to the States for dealing with speculators and hoarders. Some States had imposed stock-limits. Under the Essential Commodities Act, all powers were with the State Governments but the rate of conviction was very less. Unless the State Governments also cooperate, the Minister said that it was not possible to tide over the current difficult period of inflation. He expressed confidence that by taking appropriate fiscal, monetary, supply and administrative measures, the Government would be able to control the price rise.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) said that the current price rise in the country was an economic crisis in which all the members had to

forget their political differences and suggest various measures. He appealed to the Government to immediately constitute a monitoring mechanism both at the Central and State levels to plug all the loopholes in the Essential Commodities Act and also to strictly monitor the food mechanism. He also suggested that, even in the NREG Scheme, it would be better to give a part of the wage in terms of foodgrains so that the common man could be benefitted and retrieved from the situation of inflation.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) said that the Government had not taken effective steps and it was now unable to supply grains to those States which were in high scarcity. In this wake, he suggested that the liberal policies adopted by the Government had to be reviewed and the Centre should take emergency steps to ride over the dire situation.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that the biggest failure of the UPA Government was its inability to control the price rise and inflation. Alleging that the Government had not taken enough steps, he suggested that the Government should immediately convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss the various problems that led to the present situation and to take steps to amend the Essential Commodities Act to control black marketing and hoarding of pulses and oilseeds.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar said that the policy of the Government was to have a check on the inflation and also to take the process of economic growth on the right track. The Government had adopted two methods to implement the objectives mentioned in the National Common Minimum Programme. The Government was committed to boost up agricultural sector besides paying attention to the poor. The Government had, during the last two years, increased the minimum support price to a great extent. Today, the farmers were getting remunerative prices. To review any economy, he said that the international effect would not be neglected. The international price of wheat and rice had increased 100 per cent during the last one year. The price of wheat and rice in India was lowest compared to other parts of the world. However, the situation with regard to the wholesale price and retail price was quite severe in the country and both the Union and State Governments must pay attention towards it. Regarding the prevailing price situation, the Minister said that increasing growth rate affects the demand of food grains. The gap between the demand and production was increasing. The required investment in agricultural sector had decreased after 1998. Soon after

the present Government came into power, the budgetary provisions for the agricultural sector had been improving every year. There was an improvement in the irrigation sector also. The total production of wheat and rice in the country was increasing year after year. With the increase in the growth rate, the purchasing power of the people was also increasing. As the purchasing power increases, the people tend to purchase more foodgrains. It was affecting the demand of foodgrains in a big way. The prices were increasing but the availability had to be also increased. Due to the shortage of edible oil in the country for the last many years, the Government had decided to import 1 million tonne of edible oil. Also, the Government had decided to import 15 lakh metric tonne of pulses for augmenting the supply of pulses in the country. So far as wheat and rice were concerned, the situation in the current year seemed to be good. The export of rice had been banned.

The Minister said that the Government of India had taken some other decisions to control the price rise. The fiscal measures taken by the Government include reduction in import duty to the point of zero in respect of articles like pulses, edible oil and maize; withdrawal of 4 per cent additional duty on edible commodities; reducing import duty on refined oil and vegetable oil by 7.5 per cent; reduction of import duty on butter and ghee to 30 per cent. The overall approach of the Government was to improve the production and productivity and to see that the farmers were not disheartened.

Regarding situation in Jammu and Kashmir: Making a statement in this regard in the House on 25 April 2008, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal said that a process of wide-ranging consultations with different sections of the people in the State of Jammu and Kashmir regarding various aspects of the situation in the State had been initiated in the form of the Round Table Conference (RCT) on Jammu and Kashmir under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India in February 2006. In pursuance of the Second RTC held at Srinagar on 24 and 25 May 2006, five Working Groups were constituted to look into various aspects and recommend measures for bringing about further improvement in terms of restoration of peace and normalcy and for the overall balanced and socio-economic development of the people in the State. The reports of four of these Working Groups were presented in the Third RTC held in New Delhi on 24 April 2007, which broadly endorsed the approach and recommendations made by them.

The Working Group on 'Confidence Building Measures across the segments of society in the State had made various recommendations,

inter alia, in respect of relief and rehabilitation measures for widows, orphans and other victims of militancy and violence; facilitating the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri migrants; issues relating to refugees of 1947 from West Pakistan in POK, etc. After examination of the recommendations, the Government had taken the following decisions:

Victims of Militancy Related Violence: In 1994, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir evolved a special scheme for providing compassionate employment to the eligible next of kin (NoK) of victims of militancy related violence. Due to non-availability of adequate number of jobs, there was a large backlog of approved cases for such compassionate appointments. There were also a number of families where, despite relaxations in eligibility conditions, no members in the family were eligible for employment. It was, therefore, proposed by the State Government, as an exceptional measure, to offer a one-time compensation of Rs.5 lakh in lieu of the agreed compassionate appointment. The State Government had sought the assistance of the Government of India for re-imbursement of the expenditure that coverage of the backlog would entail. The Union Government had agreed to this request. It had also agreed to provide assistance for increasing the quantum of monthly pension payable to widows under the existing scheme of the Rehabilitation Council of Jammu and Kashmir to Rs.750/- per month from the present level of Rs.500/- per month. Assistance to those orphaned in the militancy related violence would now cover all such children without discrimination.

Problems of Migrants of the Valley: A major issue that had plagued the situation in Jammu and Kashmir was the fact that more than 55,000 families, who had been forced to leave their homes in the wake of the unfortunate events in the State, continued to be away from their homes in the Kashmir Valley. There was a long standing tradition of people of different faiths living together in peace and harmony in the State. It was the collective responsibility of all to rectify the situation, and to facilitate the return of these families and in the process address a major humanitarian concern that had been crying for attention over the years.

The Minister said that when many migrant families left the Valley, they had to resort to distress sale of their houses and properties till legislation put a stop to it in 1997. The State Government was being requested to identify land for the group housing societies of such families. The Government proposes to give these migrant families, who opt to return to the Valley, a lump sum grant of Rs.7.5 lakh to

build or buy homes through such societies. It had also been decided to give a similar lump sum grant to those migrant families whose houses had been fully or partially damaged, as well as assistance to those whose houses might not have been damaged, but got into disuse and got dilapidated as a result of abandonment. It was proposed to assist suitably with transit accommodation and start-up expenses. It had also been decided that the monthly relief being presently given to around 15,000 migrant families in Jammu and Delhi would be continued for such of these families, who might opt to return to the Valley, for a period of two years to enable a smooth transition. The Government would also provide assistance for education of children of migrant families through the J&K Rehabilitation Council.

The State Government had proposed to provide 6,000 jobs, for the ones who were educated among the migrant youth, in the State Government service. To assist the State Government in providing such employment opportunities, the Central Government would bear the cost towards the salary for about 3,000 youth till they were absorbed against regular posts in the State Government, within the specified time-frame. Further, the Government was considering a financial package for other unemployed youth from among the migrant community to help them engage in self-employment through vocational training. The migrant families who were engaged in agriculture and horticulture would require assistance to renew their occupation in the field. The Government would provide lump-sum grants for the restoration of agricultural holdings and orchards which might have been laying abandoned. It was examining the feasibility of waiving the interest on the unpaid loans taken by the Kashmiri migrants before their migration as part of a one-time settlement package. The expenditure on all the above proposals was presently estimated to be around Rs.1,600 crore. These benefits would apply to all the migrant families, who migrated bag and baggage after 1989, and had not been able to return to the Valley. The Minister hoped that these measures would go a long way in bringing these families back home, and enable them to get back to a life of dignity and honour in the land of their forefathers where they belong.

Refugees from West Pakistan: The Minister stated that the Government was conscious of the hardship that the refugees from the West Pakistan had to face because they were not considered to be the permanent residents of the State. It had decided to work out a package for them. Firstly, a dispensation was proposed to enable their children and grand children to seek admission in technical educational

institutions in various parts of the country. Secondly, it was proposed to facilitate bank loans without security of the land. A nodal cell was proposed to be set up by the Union Ministry of Finance to deal with this matter. Thirdly, it would provide vocational training opportunities under the Skill Development Initiative Programme of the Government of India.

PoK Refugees of 1947: The Government had also examined the problems faced by the families who migrated from PoK to the State of J&K in 1947. On the recommendations of the State Government, it had agreed to meet an expenditure of about Rs.50 crore to resolve the cases of land deficiency or where it had not been possible to allot plots in urban areas to these families. With these measures, no further assistance would be required from the Government of India. The Government expected that this would bring the problem of PoK refugees of 1947 to rest.

Problems of compensation for lands used for construction of Border Works: In respect of a large quantum of the lands on which various border works, such as ditch-cum-bunds, border fencing, etc. were constructed, compensation remained to be paid to the affected farmers. Time bound steps would be taken for payment of compensation as per the law.

With a view to further consolidate the confidence building initiatives already taken, it was planned to liberalize the entry permit system of cross LoC travel, by bringing in features like triple entry permits valid for one year and completion of the verification process within six weeks. The Government was also proposing early operationalisation of Kargil-Skardu and Jammu-Sialkot routes, and increasing the frequency of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot bus services from fortnightly to weekly. He said that the Government would discuss these issues shortly with Pakistan. For the convenience of the travellers, applications for entry permit could be made at each District Passport Collection Centre. These measures would expand travel across the LoC and also enable wider cultural, academic, students and other exchanges. Trade and truck services across the LoC would also be operationalised.

Regarding successful launch of 10 Satellites by India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C9): Making a Statement in this regard in the House on 28 April 2008, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Shri Prithviraj Chavan informed the House that on 28 April 2008, India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle

(PSLV-C9) successfully launched CARTOSAT-2A, Indian Mini Satellite-1 (IMS-1) and eight nano satellites for international customers into the desired orbit. This was the 12th consecutively successful flight of PSLV conducted from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota. All the systems had performed satisfactorily. PSLV-C9 in its core alone configuration launched ten satellites with a total weight of about 820 kg. CARTOSAT-2A, weighing 690 kg. is a state-of-the-art Remote Sensing Satellite, similar to CARTOSAT-2 launched on 10 January 2007. The data with a resolution of about one metre from this satellite would be used for detailed mapping applications at cadastral level, urban and rural infrastructure development and management.

Along with CARTOSAT-2A, 83 kg. Indian Mini Satellite-1 (IMS-1) which incorporated many new technologies and had miniature subsystems was also launched successfully. The data from this mission would be made available to the interested space agencies and student community from developing countries to provide necessary impetus to capacity building in using satellite data. Eight nano-satellites launched onboard PSLV-C9 were built by Universities and Research institutions in Canada and Cosmos International, Germany.

The Minister stated that the successful launch of PSLV-C9 had reiterated its capability and versatility to launch satellites in various types of orbit and also to carry out multiple satellite missions. He congratulated the Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and his team on the magnificent achievement.

Regarding inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution: Making a statement in this regard in the House on 29 April 2008, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal said that the Government had been receiving demands for inclusion of various languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution over the last several years. At present, the Eighth Schedule consisted of 22 languages. These were: (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Bodo, (4) Dogri, (5) Gujarati, (6) Hindi, (7) Kannada, (8) Kashmiri, (9) Konkani, (10) Maithili, (11) Malayalam, (12) Manipuri, (13) Marathi, (14) Nepali, (15) Oriya, (16) Punjabi, (17) Sanskrit, (18) Santhali, (19) Sindhi, (20) Tamil, (21) Telugu and (22) Urdu.

In response to a Calling Attention Motion tabled by Shri Prabhunath Singh, MP, on 18 December 2006 in the Lok Sabha regarding the need to include Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, the Minister said that a statement was made stating that

action had been initiated to consider inclusion of the Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. It was observed during the inter-ministerial consultations in the matter that presently, candidates appearing in the Civil Services (Main) Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) were allowed to take the examination in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. The UPSC had requested that the present link between the Eighth Schedule languages may be delinked from the Commission's scheme of examination keeping in view the problems faced by the Commission in conducting the examination in all the Eighth Schedule languages. In view of this, the Department of Personnel & Training had informed that the matter of inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution might be deferred till a decision was taken by the Government on the language issue with reference to the UPSC examinations. The Minister stated that the matter of inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule was, therefore, still under consideration of the Government and a decision would be taken after the issue of the language policy for the UPSC examination was decided.

Half-an-Hour discussion regarding implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS): Initiating a discussion in this regard in the House on 30 April 2008, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab of the Biju Janata Dal said that the UPA Government has termed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme as one of the successful flagship Programmes of the Government. The media, however, reported that the Scheme had provided jobs to only 3 per cent of those eligible and it had led to colossal waste and diversion of funds and termed it as a corrupt and inefficient exercise. He said that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had also made stringent remarks by stating that the NREGA could never realize its full potential if it was implemented within the same moribund structure of governance. As per the Scheme, every State Government was required to appoint a full-time Programme Officer in each Block exclusively dedicated to the implementation of the NREGS with necessary support staff. It was reported by the CAG that 19 States had so far not appointed these officers in 70 per cent of the Blocks that it surveyed. The existing BDOs had been appointed with an additional charge. Shri Mahtab further said that unfortunately, NREGS was not a Scheme that could work on an 'additional charge' basis. Also, an Employment Guarantee Assistant (EGA) was required to be appointed in each *Gram Panchayat.* According to the CAG Report, 52 per cent of the 513 *Gram Panchayats* that were surveyed had not appointed EGAs. The accredited engineers

had also not been appointed at the District level. The most neglected area in the implementation of the Programme was ensuring 'accountability' and 'transparency'. The performance of NREGS showed instances of corruption and inefficiency in its implementation. According to the CAG Report, 14 States did not have proper records. The main cause of failure of the NREGS was poor governance. He, therefore, wanted to know whether NREGS was facing difficulties in implementation because of lack of professionals; what policy the Government was taking so that the State Government would have full time Programme Officers in place; whether the Government agreed to the view that documentation and procedural requirements of NREGS had made it unattractive; and what steps the Government intended to take to make it more people-oriented and involve more Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said that, so far, the NREGS had been able to generate 141 crore man days employment in 303 districts, benefitting 3.37 crore families. Not only BPL families, even 25 per cent additional families had been covered. When the scheme becomes operational in all the districts of the country, it would provide employment to 500 crore families. As far as the appointment of employees was concerned, the Minister said that the Government had requested the States to appoint one additional *Rozgar Sewak* in every *Panchayat*, one Technical Engineer for five *Panchayats* and also one Programme Officer. The Government also disbursed enough money for the accounts, computerization and training of the officers. Besides, the Government held four meetings in a year; wrote letters to the Chief Ministers and members of Parliament to ensure that there was no loopholes. But the final outcome depended upon the performance of the *Panchayats*. Wherever the elected representatives were functioning properly, the Scheme was being implemented efficiently. The Government had consulted IITs, IIMs, agricultural universities, UGC, etc. to ensure its smooth implementation and it was getting favourable response. The Minister, however, requested the members to go to their Constituencies from time to time and intimate the State Governments and the Ministry about the shortcomings if there were any. So far as the finance part was concerned, he said that the Finance Minister had ensured categorically that the Scheme would not face shortage of money. The Minister said that Rs.10 Lakh had been given to each district for formulating its prospective plan. So far as the issue of minimum wage was concerned, he said that minimum wages vary from State to State and from region to region. The law with regard to the minimum wages as passed by the House provided that section 3

of the existing Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in the States, which ensured the agricultural wages therein, would also apply to the wages under NREGS. The Minimum Wages Act was already in existence in the country but it was not being enforced by every State. Efforts were being made to evolve consensus among the States in this regard. So far as amalgamation of food components was concerned, the provision for food for work and SGRO Scheme had been formulated and whatever scheme was considered fit for NREGA would continue. Efforts were also being made to connect all the districts on-line.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, Bill, 2006:* Moving the Motion for consideration of the Bill on 29 April 2008, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss said that the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry was established in 1964 primarily with the objective of developing patterns of teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and to establish and demonstrate high standards of education. The Institute had been providing quality education and excellent patient care delivery services over the years. However, it could not grow due to constraints in the process of manpower selection, lack of academic autonomy, lack of flexibility in administrative and financial powers, commensurate with other institutions like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh.

It was proposed to make the Institute a statutory body corporate and declare it as an institution of national importance under entry 64 of List I of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution so that it may develop as a high level institution of medical education and research on the pattern of AIIMS and the PGIMER, Chandigarh.

The Bill would empower the Institute with academic autonomy to develop its own curriculum, set new trends in medical education and research and award its own degrees and also enable it to have appropriate delegated administrative and financial powers. The conferring of statutory status on this Institute would enable it to grow into a model centre of excellence.

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* The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the House on 24 April 2008

Participating in the discussion*, Prof. M. Ramadass of Pattali Makkal Katchi welcomed the Bill and said that the Institute would be upgraded into an institution of national importance and the local people would get the best health care and quality medical education which would enable them to go higher and higher in the societal ladder. He said that after 44 years, today, the institution was being upgraded because of the untiring ceaseless efforts of the Hon'ble Minister. The Bill provided for an Institute Committee with 22 members, a Governing Body, many Standing Committees and *ad hoc* Committees. The Institution would get complete decision-making powers and all decisions would be expedited besides constructive work carried out in a better way.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) supported the Bill and said that it would enable JIPMER to create an environment conducive to high standard of medical education. He said that India was facing an acute shortage of manpower in the health sector and wondered why the Government was not doing anything to develop and establish the AIIMS-like institutes that had been decided by the earlier Government. He wanted that the Minister should undertake efforts to develop the infrastructure in the medical sector.

Shri Ramdas Athawale (RPI-A) suggested that the word 'Nehru' should be suffixed to Jawaharlal in the name of the Institute. Being a Government institute, he stressed the need to grant admission to the SC/ST students at the minimum fee.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss said that since the last four years, the Government had taken a number of steps to improve the infrastructure of the Institute. In the last two years, the Government had put in about Rs.180 crore investment into JIPMER, Puducherry for having speciality, super speciality block, nursing college, cancer block, etc. But the problem persisted with regard to the faculty and the manpower. During the course of the last two years, a series of discussions had

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Khiren Rijiju, S.K. Kharventhan, Shailendra Kumar, A. Krishnaswamy, M. Appadurai, Virchandra Paswan, Tapir Gao, Francis Fanthome, K. Francis George, Raghuraj Singh Shakya, Ram Kripal Yadav, C.K. Chandrappan, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, Dr. K.S. Manoj and Smt. Archana Nayak

taken place at different levels with the employees, faculty, students, etc., so that the importance of the Bill was addressed and they had the knowledge about the Bill. A comprehensive Bill had been brought out today where concerns of the employees, students, the reservation policy, etc. had been taken into consideration so as to get a good Institute. So far as the budget for the Institute was concerned, the Minister assured that it would definitely be increased. Once this statute was passed, it would be easier for the Institute to function and it could take care of its problems. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, the budgetary allocation for the Health Ministry was about Rs.42,000 crore and in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Prime Minister had earmarked a sum of Rs.1,36,000 crore, out of which Rs.40,000 crore would go for infrastructure.

Coming to the AIIMS-like institutions, the Minister stated that there had been some delay due to non-response to the tenders, etc. Work has already started in Rajasthan and work would be starting shortly in Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Patna, etc. and the Government was serious about the projects. He also assured the House that a lot of priority would be given to those States which were in the lowest slab in the health indices.

The Minister further said that since JIPMER would become a national institute, lot of priorities would be given on research and a lot of allocation would be made for that. Expressing concern about the student fees, he said that the Government would highly subsidize the fees. A commitment had also been given that the poor patients would be taken care of.

The Bill was passed.

*The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007**: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House on 30 April 2008, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Shri Praful Patel said this legislation would facilitate higher compensation and prevent Indian passengers from discrimination which they are facing right now. The legal regime governing the liability of air carriers for injury or death of passengers, for destruction or damage or loss or damage to baggage and cargo and losses caused by delay in international carriage was set out in a number of international instruments. However, India

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 4 May 2007

had ratified only two instruments, namely the Warsaw Convention, 1929 and the Warsaw Convention as amended by the Hague Protocol, 1955, and the same had been given effect to by the Carriage by Air Act, 1972.

As the limits of liability were considered to be inadequate, the International Civil Aviation Organisation took the initiative and carried out a socio-economic study with a view to revising the levels of compensation and modernizing the existing liability provisions. The deliberations in several meetings of the Legal Committee of the International Civil Aviation Organisation culminated in the adoption of the Convention for the unification of certain rules for International Carriage by Air (popularly known as Montreal Convention, 1999) at a Diplomatic Conference held on 28 May 1999.

The salient features of the Montreal Convention are: amount of compensation for death or injury had been enhanced to 1,00,000 Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) instead of Gold Francs which after conversion came to US$20,000; choice of jurisdiction had been expanded to include the place of domicile of the passenger; provision for advance payment in case of death or bodily injury; provision for review of limits of liability based on inflation so that the need to amend the Convention is obviated; recognition of the use of electronic documents such as e-ticket, etc, and to bring uniformity in the application of liability regime ending the multiplicity of international instruments.

In view of the above, it was proposed to accede to the Convention for the unification of certain rules for international carriage by air so that India would be at par with other major countries of the world. In order to give effect to the provisions of the Convention in India, it was imperative that appropriate legislative action was taken. For this purpose, it was proposed to amend certain provisions of the Carriage by Air Act, 1972 and also to include the text of the Montreal Convention to the said Act as the Third Schedule.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of State in the Ministry

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* Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, S.K. Kharventhan, Sudhangshu Seal, Shailendra Kumar, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Vijayendra Pal Singh, Ram Kripal Yadav, Mohammed Tahir Khan, Chandrakant Bhaurao Khaire, C.K. Chandrappan, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Prabhunath Singh, Francis K. George, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Khiren Rijiju, Bikram Keshari Deo, Kunwar Manvendra Singh, Dr. R. Senthil, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran

of Civil Aviation, Shri Praful Patel said that the International Civil Aviation Organization was the apex body of aviation. It formed various rules and regulations and legislation had been passed by respective countries based on mutually agreed terms and conditions, which the member-States had to agree. The Montreal Convention was one of those agreements where all the member-nations agreed that some changes needed to be brought in terms of compensation to the passengers in various circumstances whether it was death, injury, or loss of cargo or baggage, etc. In terms of compensation, he said that there could be various view points expressed but since it was an international protocol every member State had to agree. It was not that a passenger in India can claim more compensation and a passenger in the other country can expect lesser compensation. There was no reason to believe that domestic passengers would be worse off, or paid less in the event of such eventualities. Regarding issues raised about providing a level playing field, the Minister said that in any class of travel, a passenger was termed as equal. Whether it was loss due to accident, or injury or death or any other kind of compensation, it would not be given on different terms. Regarding the issue of the Fifth Jurisdiction that had been added in the Montreal Convention, he said that it was more of a passenger-friendly measure as now the passengers would be able to file their claims in the country of their domicile. The Minister also said that this was not going to lead to any impact on the fares within the country. He assumed that all the issues which had been raised by the members and which were beyond the scope of this legislation would also be taken up for consideration at future deliberations of the international body. With regard to the issues related to safety and security, the Minister categorically stated that air travel in India was as safe as it could be anywhere else. He informed that the Government was paying more and more attention towards infrastructure. The work of construction, expansion and modernization of airports was going on. The Bill, therefore, was a small but important step towards providing better services and better compensation to the air passengers, the Minister added.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Thirteenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, in all, 27,478 notices of Questions (19,987 Starred; 7,477 Unstarred and 14 Short Notice Questions) were received. Out of these, 559 notices

were admitted as Starred; 5,412 as Unstarred and none was admitted as a Short Notice Question.

On the first day of the Session *i.e.*, 25 February 2008, the President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together. As usual, there was no Question Hour on that day. No Question Hour was fixed as well on 29 February 2008 *i.e.*, the day of presentation of the General Budget.

Due to interruptions in the House on 26, 27, 28 February; 3 and 12 March; 22 April and 5 May 2008, Starred Questions were not called for oral answers. Replies to the Starred Questions listed for those days were treated as Unstarred and their answers, together with the answers to the Unstarred Questions, were printed in the official report for those days.

As decided by the Business Advisory Committee at its sitting held on 3 March 2008 and agreed to by the House on 4 March 2008, the sitting of Lok Sabha fixed for 7 March 2008 was cancelled. Likewise, on the basis of the decision taken by the Business Advisory Committee at its sitting held on 19 March 2008 and agreed to by the House, the sitting of Lok Sabha fixed for 20 March 2008 was also cancelled. Replies to the Starred Questions listed for 7 March 2008 and 20 March were treated as Unstarred and their answers together with the answers to the Unstarred Questions were printed in the official reports for the next sitting, *i.e.*, 10 March 2008 and 15 April 2008, respectively.

On 15 April 2008, the House adjourned for the day after the obituary references and Starred Questions were not called for oral answer. Replies to the Starred Questions listed for 15 April 2008 were treated as Unstarred and their answers together with the answers to the Unstarred Questions were printed in the Official Report for the day along with the replies listed for 20 March 2008.

The Sitting of Lok Sabha fixed for 2 May 2008 was cancelled. As the decision was taken well in advance, the Question Lists for the same were not printed and circulated to the members and the Ministries. Notices of Questions tabled for the date were treated as lapsed.

On 5 May 2008, the Speaker, Lok Sabha adjourned the House *sine die*. Accordingly, the Questions listed for 6, 7, 8 and 9 May 2008 were treated as lapsed.

Daily Average of Question in the List of Questions: The average number of Starred Questions answered orally in each sitting of the House during the Session was 4.0. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered orally on a day was 8 on 16, 17 and 18 April 2008.

The average number of Questions appearing in the Unstarred List came to 193 per day against the prescribed limit of 230, the minimum being 139 Questions on 30 April 2008.

Half-an-Hour Discussion: In all, 4 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received during the Session. Out of these, 2 notices were admitted but only one of them was discussed on the floor of the House.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the period, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Prakash Paranjpe, sitting member; Sarvashri Alkha Ram, Trilok Chand, P. Ganga Reddy, Mohammad Mahfooz Ali Khan, Manphool Singh Chaudhary, Wangcha Rajkumar, Balbir Singh, Bijaya Chandrasingh Prodhan, Amratlal Vallabhdas Tarwala, Anantrao Patil, Dr. Pratap Chandra Chunder, Dr. Jayantilal Narbheram Parekh, Prof. Sudhir Kumar Giri, Smt. T. Lakshmi Kanthamma, Smt. Mafida Ahmed, all former members; Km. Nirmala Deshpande, a widely revered Gandhian and a sitting member of Rajya Sabha; Shri Murlidhar Devidas Amte, popularly known as Baba Amte, the renowned social reformer; and Sir Edmund Hillary, the renowned mountaineer.

Besides, reference was made to the tragic incident in which a school bus fell in Narmada Canal at Bodeli near Vadodara, Gujarat, which resulted in the loss of lives of about 41 school children and injury to several others.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

RAJYA SABHA

TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its Two Hundred and Thirteenth Session on 25 February 2008, was adjourned on 20 March 2008 to enable the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments under its jurisdiction and report thereon. The House reconvened on 15 April 2008 and was adjourned *sine die* on 6 May 2008. The Rajya Sabha was then prorogued by the President on 10 May 2008.

A résumé of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Session is given below:

A. STATEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address to Members of Parliament: On 25 February 2008, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil addressed the members of both Houses of Parliament together in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address was moved by Shri Janardan Dwivedi of the Indian National Congress on 28 February 2008. The Motion was seconded by Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi of the Indian National Congress. The discussion took place on 3, 4 and 5 March 2008.

Moving the motion, Shri Janardan Dwivedi said that ever since the UPA Government came to power, it had paid special attention towards the weaker sections, the poor and women. It had tried to take integrated steps for the development of the rural as well as the urban areas. The allocation for rural development programme had increased from Rs.11,000 crore to Rs.50,000 crore during the four years of the UPA rule. The main thrust of the Government had been on education and health sectors. Moreover, the enactment of the Right to Information Act was a revolutionary step.

He further stated that in the Eleventh Plan, the allocation for infrastructural development was likely to be doubled. There was hope for setting up of Mega Food Parks or the National Institute of Food Technology which would prove beneficial for the farmers. A sum of

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* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Rs.11,000 crore had also been earmarked for the benefit of the thirty lakh children belonging to the backward classes. Various schemes like *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana,* Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy and Backward Regions Grant Fund had been initiated by the Government. A new Coal Distribution Policy for the Defence, Railways, Power and Fertilizers sectors had been prepared. Another policy pertaining to minerals was also being finalized, he said. Many schemes had been launched for the development of the North Eastern Region. The Roadways, civil aviation, telecommunications, education and the industries sectors were being given special attention. The Government's foreign policy sought to promote an environment of peace and stability in the region and a peaceful neighbourhood. The Government, he said had tackled each and every issue in totality with comprehensive approach.

Seconding the motion, Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi (INC) said that the President's Address was a vital source of communication between the Government and the Legislature besides being a review of the previous year and a trailer for the future. India, he said, was the world's fastest growing economy after China and in the past four years it was growing at above eight per cent. Several reports had also suggested that by the year 2025, it would be ahead of Japan as the world's third largest economy after US and China. Despite these achievements, 25 per cent of the population was still living below the poverty line (BPL) and the rate of decrease among the BPL was relatively small and slow. It was for this reason that the President's Address mentioned about inclusive growth, which displays labour flexibility, a greater inclusion of labour and labour-intensive activities and economies of scale.

Referring to the malnutrition, one of the human development indicators, Shri Singhvi said that it had decreased from 53 per cent in the early 1990s to 39 per cent in 2005. He further stated that the Central Government budgetary allocation for three key sectors, *viz.* agriculture, health and rural development had tripled between the Tenth and the Eleventh Five Year Plans. To strengthen agriculture and to help poor farmers, agricultural loan waiver was granted mostly in respect of small and marginal farmers in the Budget. Moreover, to strengthen the rule of law, the judicial outlays were required to be increased and the resource crunch for the sector needed to be addressed. He informed that out of 700 High Court judges all over the country, 150 judicial seats have remained vacant. Shri Singhvi pointed out that terrorism

and threat to internal security were the major challenges to democracy and stressed upon the need for joint efforts of the State Governments and the Centre in this regard. The implementation of the Right to Information which was in operation in every Department was an important step towards war on corruption. He also suggested that the Centre must institutionalize a monitoring mechanism and an auditing mechanism in respect of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA).

Participating in the discussion* Shri Rajnath Singh (BJP) said that despite the efforts of the Government, the prices of the essential commodities were increasing. Referring to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Shri Singh said that the Government should assess the delivery mechanism in order to implement the scheme in an effective manner. He was of the opinion that a consensus should be evolved before the launch of any popular scheme. He urged that the recommendations of the Commission constituted to study the problems of farmers be implemented. He suggested that the agricultural produce be improved by way of organic farming. Speaking about the welfare measures for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward classes, he said that the reservation should be given to them in the minority institutions. He assured his party's support for 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament or State Legislatures as well as any initiative taken by the Government to fight terrorism. Referring to the situation in the neighbouring countries, Shri Singh said that India would be in a beneficial position only if peace and stability prevailed in its neighbourhood. He urged the Government to take steps to minimize the economic disparity.

Referring to the 59th Report of the National Sample Survey Organisation, Shri Sitaram Yechury CPI (M) said that 42.3 per cent of the peasants who were availing loans from private sources, were excluded from the category of loan waiver, thus loan waiving was only a partial measure. He further stated that the rural banking system had to be strengthened

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Janeshwar Mishra, R.K. Dhawan, Arun Jaitley, Gandhi Azad, Manohar Joshi, Ali Anwar, Tariq Anwar, Shahid Siddiqui, Prasanta Chatterjee, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, Ram Jethmalani, Tarlochan Singh, Rahul Bajaj, Varinder Singh Bajwa, Shantaram Laxman Naik, T.S. Bajwa, R. Shunmugasundaram, Rajniti Prasad, Abu Asim Azmi, Vedprakash P. Goyal, D. Raja, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Prof. P.J. Kurien, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Dr. V. Maitreyan, Dr. K. Keshava Rao, Dr. Barun Mukherjee, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Smt. Prema Cariappa, Kumari Nirmala Deshpande and Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya

apart from providing the farmers with the Minimum Support Price. The agricultural indebtedness could be resolved if the 24 agricultural products, as recommended by the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices, were brought under the Minimum Support Price system. Shri Yechury pointed out that the agricultural growth had come down from 5.6 per cent to 2.6 per cent. The Budgetary provision for irrigation had also declined. On the condition of the peasants, he said that 77 per cent of the Indians were earning below Rs.20 a day and that every 30 minutes one peasant was commiting suicide. Expressing concern over the decline in the manufacturing sector, Shri Yechury said that the index in the industrial production had fallen from 11.2 per cent to 9 per cent. A serious rethinking on the issue of the global economic slowdown was required. The opening of every sector to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) was leading to widening the hiatus between the shining and the suffering India. As regards internal security, he said that the issue was non-negotiable and the Government should protect the country from any attack by the extremist forces. He commended the Government's proactive role in assisting the neighbouring nations without interfering in their internal affairs. He urged the Government to address the matter of nuclear deal seriously.

Opposing the motion, Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy (TDP) said that the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme should be changed and made farmer-friendly. He demanded that a constitutional amendment should be brought to help the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes to have reservations in the Judiciary. The Government, he said, should take concrete steps in containing the prices of essential commodities and help the State Governments in upgrading the present infrastructure for the Mid-day Meals Scheme. He requested the Government to review the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme and check its misuse. He further said that the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal should be stopped as it was a threat to the country's sovereignty.

Dr. P.C. Alexander (Independent) said that the Parliamentary system could function only if there was a good, healthy and sound party system in the country. He suggested that the members should change their ways of conducting business in the House or else the institution would get degenerated and become a subject of ridicule. Regarding the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, he said that a Parliamentary Committee be appointed to give a new direction to the scheme and to ensure that the hopes and aspirations of those who introduced the scheme were really fulfilled on the lines on which the

scheme had to be implemented. Referring to the Arjun Sengupta Report on the Unorganized Sector in the country, Dr. Alexander said that such reports should be given priority and be discussed in the House.

Smt. Shobhana Bhartia (Nominated) said that at present India has 63 per cent working population which is likely to increase to almost 67 per cent by the year 2025. In order to capitalize on the demographic advantage, lot of efforts, in terms of investing in the country's social infrastructure *viz.* education and healthcare are required. Citing a UNESCO report she said that 33 per cent of the world's illiterate population resides in India. As such, the education sector need to be revamped by making it more job-oriented so that it contributes productively to the nation's growth. She said, it was necessary to develop strong teacher-training modules to build the confidence of the people and perform jobs better. She suggested that the primary stage school dropouts should be encouraged into the agricultural sector, the secondary stage school dropouts should be imparted training to be absorbed into the manufacturing sector and eventually, the education system should be revamped to support the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth.

Replying to the debate on 5 March 2008, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said that terrorism was a common enemy and required to be fought unitedly cutting across party lines. Speaking about policy on farmers, he said that it was a national policy adopted by the Government and adequate attention would be paid to its proper implementation. Regarding the nuclear deal, he said that negotiations were on with the International Atomic Energy Agency. A broad based consensus was to be evolved on the issue. Dr. Singh said that it is the duty of the Government to work honestly and sincerely to empower the marginalized sections of the society.

Referring to the farmers, the Prime Minister said that the welfare of the farmer was of utmost importance, therefore, the Government had given topmost priority to agriculture. The *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* and the National Food Security Mission had marked Rs.35,000 crore to increase the availability of foodgrains and improve the agricultural practices. These schemes had recognized the need for strategies tailored to the specific agro-climatic conditions of an area, he added. Agricultural research and extension systems were being given due attention and steps were also being taken to modernize agriculture marketing. He informed that the trend of declining investment in agriculture had reversed and the Minimum Support Price for both

wheat and paddy had been raised. He further stated that steps had been taken to restructure agricultural loan and a programme had also been introduced to swap and take over of the loans by the banks from the moneylenders.

Considering inflation as the worst enemy of the poor people, the Prime Minister said that the prices of goods available through public distribution system had not increased in the past four years both for people below the poverty line as well as for those above the poverty line. He urged the State Governments to strengthen the public distribution system. About the Integrated Child Development Scheme, he said, that the services had been expanded by 80 per cent. The Mid-Day Meal Programme has also been expanded to cover another 2.5 crore children. Mentioning about the issue of internal security, he said that the Central Government would assist all the States affected by the menace of left wing extremism in every possible way. Referring to the India's concern for its neighbours, he said that the Government's priority was peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia.

The Budget (Railways) 2008-2009: The discussion on Budget (Railways), 2008-2009 took place in the House on 10, 11 and 12 March 2008. Initiating the discussion on 10 March 2008, Smt. Sushma Swaraj (BJP) said that the credit of profit earning by the Railways was attributed to the renewal of railway lines and bridges and the creation of Special Railway Safety Fund. Dismissing the claims made by the Minister of Railways regarding earning of profit despite the decrease in rail fare, she said that the quota for '*Tatkal Ticket*' had been increased from 10 to 30 per cent and an additional amount had to be paid which was Rs.100 for a second class ticket and Rs.300 for upper class ticket. The only option available to a passenger was to purchase the ticket from the first to the last station of the train's journey instead of the actual journey he intended to undertake. In case of a refund of Tatkal Ticket only 25 per cent of the amount was permissible if the refund was claimed before 24 hours of the journey. The cancellation charges had also been enhanced, she added. The annual average increase in the freight charges was 7 per cent and in case of foodgrains and fertilizers it was 20 and 25 per cent respectively. The share of Railways in the national freight had decreased to 35 per cent at present, which was 89 per cent at the time of Independence. Smt. Swaraj welcomed the move regarding concessions in fares being provided to the senior citizens and to the girl students upto the level of graduation. She demanded that the reservation for women in the Railway Protection Force be increased to 10 per cent.

Participating in the discussion*; Shri Rajiv Shukla (INC) suggested that the security arrangements in the Railways should be strengthened; the number of coaches for the general class should be increased and also adequate arrangements be made for the trains to halt at suburban stations. Commending the 'Garib Rath' trains as model trains, he said that their number should be enhanced. He appreciated the Minister of Railways for his decision regarding the filling up of the backlog of vacancies in the Railways.

Shri Penumalli Madhu {CPI (M)} said that the most dangerous thing in the Budget was the intention of the Railways to privatize normal as well as the safety operations, railway production units, maintenance workshops, printing processes and the maintenance services. The process of computer reservation as well as the railway hospitals was also proposed to be privatized.

Dr. Prabha Thakur (INC) said that the Railways was earning profits despite the fact that no burden was passed on to the common man and the facilities being provided had also been extended. She acknowledged the Minister of Railways for enhancing the railway network in Rajasthan. She requested that the suggestions that were put forth by the Zonal Railways' Consultative Committees and the Government's stand on those suggestions should be intimated. She suggested that the concession in rail fare should also be given to the attendants travelling along with the senior citizens. The amenities available to passengers at the stations should also be improved, she added.

Lauding the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor as a welcome step, Shri Rahul Bajaj (Independent) said that the Railways needed to be strengthened further and more investment was required in the sector. He suggested that there should be more of public-private partnership for freight carriage. He further said that within the supremacy of the

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Virendra Bhatia, Sanjay Raut, Gandhi Azad, C. Perumal, M.V. Mysura Reddy, Digvijay Singh, S. Anbalagan, Shantaram Laxman Naik, Shreegopal Vyas, Nand Kishore Yadav, V. Narayanasamy, Tarini Kanta Roy, Tarlochan Singh, Vijay kumar Rupani, Tiruchi Siva, Matilal Sarkar, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Mahendra Mohan, Rajniti Prasad, Syed Azeez Pasha, T.S. Bajwa, Harish Rawat, Kumar Deepak Das, Santosh Bagrodia, Abdul Wahab Peevee, Rudra Narayan Pany, Banwari Lal Kanchhal, Moinul Hassan, Janardhana Poojary, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Dr. Vijay J. Darda, Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania, Dr. K. Malaisamy, Dr. M.S. Gill, Dr. Prabha Thakur, Ms. Sushila Tiriya, Miss Anusuiya Uikey and Ms. Pramila Bohidar

political masters the Railway Board and the other entire managements should be given more autonomy.

Replying to the discussion on 12 March 2008, the Minister of Railways Shri Lalu Prasad mentioned about Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee Report and said that the Railways had given a surplus earning of Rs.69,000 crore and had undone the Committee's statement that the Indian Railways was on the verge of bankruptcy and its dues were worth Rs.61,000 crore. The Minister said that the Railways was giving concessions in travel to the girl students upto graduation level, boys upto class twelfth and also to the senior citizens. The total spending of the Railways during the years 2008-2009 would be Rs.8, 500 crore.

The Minster informed that the number of accidents had come down during the last four years. He also said that the work regarding the tender of Dedicated Freight Corridor for the development and punctuality of good trains had been finalized and the Corridor would be dedicated to the nation in the next five years. Replying to the queries raised by some members, the Minister said that all the benefits proposed in the budget would be available to the passengers in the peak as well as the non-peak season in the popular and the non-popular trains uniformly. He stated that a decision had also been taken to start *Maitri* Express between Kolkata and Dhaka.

The Budget (General) 2008-2009: The discussion on the Budget (General) 2008-2009 took place in the House on 13, 14 and 17 March 2008. Initiating the discussion on 13 March 2008, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, (BJP) said that the Government was trying to shirk its responsibility by asking the State Governments to import grains and food items instead of providing them at cheaper rates to the poor through the public distribution system. Pointing out the discrepancies in the farm loan waivers, he said that the loans of the needy farmers should also be waived off. Moreover, apart from making the cultivation economically viable, tax relief benefits should also be extended to the farmers, he demanded. The Budget, he said, was a failure on account of investment, inflation and growth. Mentioning about the weaknesses in the economy, he said that the industrial production index had gone down, the growth rate was decreasing and there had been a constant increase in the prices of pulses, edible oils, etc. The Budget had also failed to maintain a proper balance between growth and investments. Fifty eight per cent of the population in the country was facing the problem of unemployment, he said. He suggested that it was necessary to regulate the money supply so as to put a check on the prices.

Participating in the discussion* Shri Janardhana Poojary (INC) said that there was a qualitative change in the Indian economy. Every sector of the economy and every section of the people had been touched by the Budget. An enhanced amount had been allocated for the State exchequers. The amount allocated for National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, *Indira Awas Yojana* and *Aam Admi Bima Yojana* had also been enhanced. Speaking about the GDP growth rate he said that the average rate in respect of the developing countries was 5 per cent and in case of India it was 8.24 per cent which was a matter of pride. Mentioning about the farm loan waivers, he requested the Minister to include all loans disbursed upto 31 December 2007 instead of 31 March 2007 to qualify for loan waivers. He also mentioned about the enhanced food subsidy provided under the Public Distribution System and demanded proper monitoring of the PDS by the State Governments so that it reaches the poor, *i.e.* the target group, properly.

Dr. Bimal Jalan (Nominated) said that the failure in the existing delivery system required immediate attention. He urged the Government to fix responsibility and ensure accountability for the implementation of any scheme. He urged the Finance Minister to revisit the farm loan waiver scheme. In order to be more positive in the current circumstances, he said, that there was a need for creating a level-playing field in the financial system and the decision taken ought to be in relation with the rest of the economy in the world.

Supporting the Budget, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar (Independent) said that the Eleventh Plan had set a basis for a sustainable inclusive growth. He urged the Finance Minister to examine the possibility of creation of a long-term and sustainable framework to address the core issue of inclusive growth. He appreciated setting up of the Central

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Amar Singh, Brij Bhushan Tiwari, A. Vijayaraghavan, Banwari Lal Kanchhal, Arun Shourie, A. Elavarasan, Sharad Yadav, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, Manohar Joshi, D. Raja, G. Sanjeeva Reddy, Naresh Gujral, Tarlochan Singh, Urkhao Gwra Brahma, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Syed Azeez Pasha, Abani Roy, T.S. Bajwa, Kumar Deepak Das, Ram Narayan Sahu, Krishan Lal Balmiki, Rudra Narayan Pany, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Dr. K. Malaisamy, Dr. Bimal Jalan, Dr. K. Keshava Rao, Dr. Radhakant Nayak, Smt. Brinda Karat, Smt. Supriya Sule, Smt. Syeda Anwara Taimur, Smt. Kanimozhi and Kumari Nirmala Deshpande

Plan Scheme's Monitoring Scheme, CPSMS along with a comprehensive decision support system.

Replying to the discussion on 17 March 2008, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the gross tax revenue collected by the Government in the year 2003-2004 was Rs.2,54,348 crore which was expected to rise to Rs.5,85,410 crore in the current year because of the higher GDP and better Tax-GDP ratio. He stated that the present management of the economy had led to improved fiscal health of the country with a reduced fiscal deficit of 2.5 per cent and revenue deficit of 1 per cent. In order to ensure that inflation was contained to the tolerable limits even while the growth remained unaffected, extreme vigil was required. The National Food Security Mission and the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* had been allocated Rs.25,000 crore and Rs.4,882 crore respectively as a step to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains. More subsidies were required to be provided for food as an effort to contain prices, especially for the weaker sections. He further stated that the intention was to keep the Public Distribution System well-stocked and well-supplied, so as to keep the vulnerable sections unexposed to the relentless rise in food prices and the industry unaffected by rise in commodity prices.

The Minister informed that a large amount of money had been outlayed in the Budget for education. In the health sector, there had been an increase of 15 per cent. The salaries or the compensation paid to the *Anganwadi* workers and *Anganwadi* helpers had been increased. Both fiscal and non-fiscal concessions were being given to the elderly. An amount of Rs.400 crore had been earmarked for the National Programme for Elderly. Defending the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), he said that it was necessary to provide a safety net for the people of the country. Regarding the farm loan waivers, the Minister said that it was eminently and easily fundable provided there was growth in the economy and buoyancy in the revenues. Expressing his confidence in the measures being taken, he stated that the economy would continue to grow at a high rate in 2008-2009. He appealed to the State Governments to take greater responsibility in implementing the programmes that benefited the poor.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister assured that determined efforts would be made to ensure improvement in the monitoring of the Public Distribution System where the total foodgrain leakage was 36.38 per cent. He also informed that a large amount of money had been outlayed for programmes relating to the Scheduled

Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, besides the establishment of schools and awarding of scholarships.

Statement by the Minister of External Affairs on Foreign Policy-related developments: Making a Statement in the House on 3 March 2008, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee apprised the members of the developments related to foreign policy since December 2007. He stated that during the Prime Minister's official visit to the People's Republic of China, a joint document on 'A Shared Vision for the 21st Century between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China' was signed. The Prime Minister also took up the issue of trans-border rivers. Both sides had also agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas. The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India had also been conveyed to the Chinese side by the Government.

Referring to the significant developments in Pakistan, the Minister said that India shared the anguish of the people of Pakistan at the tragic assassination of former Prime Minster Mrs Benazir Bhutto in a despicable terrorist act. India wished to see Pakistan develop and prosper in a stable democratic order and hoped that it would be able to resolve outstanding issues and build a mutually beneficial relationship with Pakistan in an atmosphere, free of violence and terrorism.Reiterating India's commitment to Afghanistan's reconstruction, Shri Mukherjee stated that the international community must stand firmly with President Karzai and his Government as they face twin challenges of a major threat from terrorism in the form of the Taliban and seek to build a democratic and pluralistic polity. Speaking about elections in Nepal, he said that the Government was committed to assist in every possible way towards Nepal's transition to a stable, democratic, peaceful and prosperous State.

The policy towards Sri Lanka, the Minister stated, was based on the conviction that there was no military solution to the conflict. The way forward lay in a peacefully negotiated political settlement within the framework of a united Sri Lanka acceptable to all communities, including the Tamils. Myanmar, the Minister said, is India's close neighbour and a gateway to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). India feels that the process of national reconciliation in Myanmar should be broad-based and include all sections of society focussing on their security considerations. Moreover it was essential for India to ensure that there was peace and stability in Myanmar during the period of its political reforms.

The Minster informed that during the 29th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers held in New Delhi on 7 and 8 December 2007, it was decided to operationalise the SAARC Development fund with immediate effect. Other decisions taken related to establishment of the South Asian University, the SAARC Food Bank and promotion of physical connectivity among the SAARC nations,. He further said that it had been indicated that India was ready to extend all possible assistance to help the people of Palestine to overcome the suffering faced by them.

The Minister said that there were significant visits from various countries such as Russia, United Kingdom, France, Japan, etc. which had helped in strengthening India's relationship with those countries. He emphasized that the Government would continue its efforts to develop close political, social and economic relations with the neighbouring countries and with all the major powers of the world so as to add to its ability to pursue its independent foreign policy as dictated by its national interest.

Statement regarding successful launch of ten satellites by India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV–C9): Making a Statement in the House on 28 April 2008, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Shri Prithviraj Chavan informed the House that India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle had successfully launched CARTOSAT–2A, Indian Mini Satellite–1 (IMS–1) and eight nano satellites for international customers into the desired orbit. The CARTOSAT–2A is a state-of-the-art Remote Sensing Satellite and the data collected by it would be used for detailed mapping applications at cadastral level, urban and rural infrastructure development and management. The data from the Indian Mini Satellite-1 (IMS-1) would be made available to interested space agencies and student community from developing countries to provide necessary impetus to capacity building in using satellite data. The Minister informed that the eight nano satellites were built by universities and research institutions in Canada and Cosmos International, Germany and stated that the successful launch of PSLV-C9 has reiterated reliability and versatility to launch satellites in various types of orbits and also to carry out multiple satellite missions.

Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry: A discussion on the working of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry took place in the House on 29 April 2008. Initiating the discussion, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP) said that in any Special

Economic Zone (SEZ), one was the processing area where there was a unit and other facilities and the other was the non-processing area where there was no unit. However, the decision of the Government to initially allow the use of 65-75 per cent of the total area of the SEZ for non-processing purposes along with the entire benefit of the SEZ gave the biggest incentive to real estate speculators. He said that the SEZ was categorized into the multi-sector SEZ, the specific sector SEZ and SEZ for gems, jewellery, biotechnology and IT. Raising doubts about the approvals granted for the SEZ operation, Shri Prasad said that it was done in a reckless and speedy manner. He demanded that the incentives given to the IT industries be extended for another ten years. He also suggested that there should be no forcible acquisition of land and due compensation should be paid to the farmers. He said that the slump in the industrial growth was a matter of serious concern. Double digit growth would be possible only if there was an increase in the manufacturing sector, he added. Referring to the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General, he said that there were damaging comments about the entire functioning of the SEZs and the goods were being sold in the Indian market without payment of any taxes or duties.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi (SBP) suggested that special agricultural zones should be established to increase the production of foodgrains which would be more effective than the National Food Security Mission. The effects of world recession and the rupee becoming stronger in comparison to the dollar would lead India to be a surplus country in the balance of payment, he stated. He urged the Government to create a channel of green house credits taking into account the fact that agriculture was becoming an important source of fuel crops in a situation of petroleum shortage.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath said that there was a phenomenal growth in exports, close to 23 per cent, in the year 2007-2008. In the past four years Foreign Direct Investment had increased by ten times. Apart from foreign exchange, investment brings technology and innovation, he stated. The main objective of the Special Economic Zones Act was to

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Banwari Lal Kanchhal, Shyamal Chakraborty, M.V. Mysura Reddy, Bhubaneshwar Kalita, Bharatkumar Raut, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, Dr. K. Malaisamy and Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan

generate economic activity. The Minister informed that the current investment in the SEZs was Rs.67,000 crore and had given direct employment to 1,76,668 people. The projected figure for exports for the year 2008-2009 was Rs.1,24,000 crore. Speaking about the process of approval for a SEZ, the Minister said that industry comes under the purview of the State Government and the application for the same was forwarded by the State Government. At the Unit level, the State Government promoted and implemented the activities and the various laws. The role of the Central Government was only to provide the facilities. Finally it was the Ministry which notified the SEZ.

Clarifying about allowing of FDI in retail, the Minister said that there was no proposal on the anvil. He said that certain special Indian products were levied with very high duties. The Minister assured that there would be no WTO Agreement with India until there was an exemption on duty reduction.

Short duration discussion on unprecedented price rise of commodities in the country: A discussion in this regard took place in the House on 16 and 17 April 2008. Initiating the discussion on 16 April, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi (BJP) said that there was a lack of harmony among inflation, economic development and investment. The rate of inflation had increased from 3.8 per cent to 7.4 per cent during the years 2004-2008. On an average the monthly expenditure on food items had increased by 30 per cent. Prices of certain items, he said were increasing on a daily basis. Expressing his concern over inflation, he said that if it goes unchecked, the democratic set-up as well as the stability of the nation would collapse. The Planning Commission, Shri Joshi said, had also warned about streamlining of the delivery system of the foodgrains. He suggested that the models of growth, development and industrialization be reconsidered in order to improve the current situation.

Participating in the discussion* Prof. P.J. Kurien (INC) said that it was the primary duty of the Central as well as the State Government to contain prices to ensure that, at least, the essential commodities were available to the common man at reasonable and moderate

* Others who took part in the discussion were; Sarvashri Janeshwar Mishra, Sitaram Yechury, Sharad Yadav, D. Raja, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, Gandhi Azad, Tariq Anwar, C. Ramachandraiah, Krishan Lal Balmiki, Tiruchi Siva, Prakash Javadekar, Shantaram Laxman Naik, Manohar Joshi, Rahul Bajaj, Kumar Deepak Das, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Rajniti Prasad, Tarlochan Singh, Banwari Lal Kanchhal, Dr. Bimal Jalan, Dr. K. Keshava Rao, Dr. Barun Mukherjee and Dr. (Smt.) Prabha Thakur

prices. The global prices, he said, had increased more than hundred per cent in respect of every item which in turn was having its impact on the domestic prices. The Government had taken certain measures including the containing of fiscal deficit at 2.5 per cent, the reduction of Central Value Added Tax (CENVAT) on all commodities, waiving import duty in respect of wheat, rice, pulses and edible oil, restrictions on exports and the increasing of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 7.5 per cent to contain prices. The State Government, Prof. Kurien said, should check black-marketing and hoarding of essential commodities and strengthen the Public Distribution System. Complimenting the bold step taken by the Government to waive farm loans, he suggested that it should be made applicable to the allied loans also. Agriculture, he added, could be made a viable business by giving loans at lower rate of interest, subsidies on fertilizers and by ensuring remunerative prices to farmers.

Dr. V. Maitreyan (AIADMK) said that the Government should take immediate steps to broad-base the Public Distribution System and the delivery of the foodgrains through it; ban the future trading of essential commodities in the market and evolve, formulate and implement long-term production plans to improve foodgrains production.

The Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the issues of international prices, liquidity or money supply and the supply-demand mismatch were being addressed seriously and sincerely. The excise duty on a number of items had been cut and had been reduced to zero on certain food items. Fiscal measures, he said would be continued to be taken. Speaking about the monetary measures, he said that the Reserve Bank of India had increased the CRR eight times since December 2006. He added that the Central Government would take administrative measures to impress upon the State Governments to take action under the Essential Commodities Act against hoarders and profiteers. Regarding the recommendations of Abhijit Sen Committee's report on Agriculture, he stated that it was under consideration. Efforts were being made to contain liquidity, reduce taxes on petroleum products and to strengthen the Public Distribution System, he added.

Shri Jaswant Singh, the Leader of the Opposition, refuted the view that inflation was a global phenomenon and said that inflation in the United States of America, the highest importer in the world, was not more than 3 per cent per annum and it was on account of the change in the land use pattern, while agricultural commitment in India was not

simply economic. Quoting from the Economic Survey, he said that the foodgrains stock had declined from 64.7 million tonnes in the years 2001 and 2003 to 7.7 million tonnes in the year 2008. As a consequence of which the supply of foodgrains through the Public Distribution System was affected. He further informed that the price rise was due to the depletion of stocks.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar said that there was a crisis of foodgrains in the world which was affecting all the countries particularly the developing countries. The overall agricultural production was also affected by climate change. The demand for foodgrains had improved during the last two years and steps were taken to increase the production of wheat and rice. The demand for foodgrains had increased due to an increase in the purchasing power of the weaker sections. The procurement of the foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) had increased to 81 per cent. In the present situation, the Minister said, it was the responsibility of the States to contribute the surplus produce to the national kitty. As the availability of edible oils and pulses was the least, the country had to resort to imports, he stated.

Referring to the meeting of the Chief Ministers on agrarian crisis, the Minister said that the decision to introduce a National Food Security Mission had been unanimously approved. The Central Government had further decided to provide Rs.25,000 crore in the Eleventh Five Year Plan under the National Agricultural Development Scheme. The Minister appealed not to create an atmosphere of scarcity which would, ultimately, create more crisis. Certain products, he said had been removed from the commodity exchange which had resulted in a decrease in their prices. The Government, he added, was willing to take corrective action on agricultural products.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 and the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008**: Moving the motions for the consideration of the Bills on 18 March 2008, the Minister of Law and Justice, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj said that the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008 proposed to amend the relevant provisions of the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Representation of

* The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 12 March 2008

the People Act, 1950 to reflect the changes in reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes as contained in the delimitation orders made by the Delimitation Commission. It would also enable the Election Commission to revise the electoral rolls as per new delimitation of constituencies for future elections. Moreover, the purpose of amendments contained in the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill was to empower the Election Commission to consolidate all orders of delimitation into a single and up-to-date order. Furthermore, it was also proposed to insert a new section 8A in the principal Act which would enable the Election Commission to conduct delimitation exercise in the North-East States.

Replying to the debate*, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj, the Minister of Law and Justice stated that delimitation process was initiated only after a political consensus was evolved. The forthcoming elections, he said would be held on the basis of the current delimitation. Mentioning about the process he stated that rotation of seats and rationalisation of constituency was inevitable as and when there was an increase in population. In order to compensate for the seats of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to follow the constitutional mandate, their seats have to be increased. Moreover, this may also require a Constitutional amendment.

The motions for consideration of the Bills, and Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bills were passed.

*The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2007***: On* 27 February 2008, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Shri Oscar Fernandes moved the motion for consideration of the Bill. The Statement of Objects and Reasons to the Bill states that the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 regulates the employment of women in factories, mines, the circus industry, plantations and shops or establishments employing 10 or more persons except the employees who are covered under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) for certain periods before and after child-birth and provides for maternity and other benefits. Under the Act, women employees are entitled to maternity benefit, additional leave with wages, six weeks maternity benefit in case of

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* Those who took part in the debate were: Sarvashri S.S. Ahluwalia, Virendra Bhatia, K. Chandran Pillai, Tiruchi Siva, Su. Thirunavukkarasar, Harish Rawat, Harendra Singh Malik, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Shantaram Laxman Naik, Tarlochan Singh, Shreegopal Vyas, Jesudasu Seelam, Gandhi Azad, Raashid Alvi, Dr. M.S. Gill and Dr. K. Malaisamy

** The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14 May 2007

miscarriage and certain other provisions to safeguard the interest of pregnant women workers.

The Bill sought to raise the medical bonus from Rs.250 to Rs.1,000, payable by the employer if no pre-natal confinement and post-natal care is provided by the employer free of charge; and to give powers to the Central Government to revise medical bonus from time to time subject to a maximum of Rs.20,000.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the session 10,162 notices of Questions (8,915 Starred and 1,247 Unstarred) were received. Out of these 580 Questions were admitted as Starred and 4,303 Questions were admitted as Unstarred. The total number of notices of Questions received in Hindi was 2, 224.

Daily average of Questions: For all days, the list of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions each. On an average, 2.9 Questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered was seven on 13 March 2008, and the minimum number of Questions orally answered was three on 16 and 28 April 2008.

The list of Unstarred Questions contained 97 Questions on 26 February 2008, 101 Questions on 27 February 2008, 113 Questions on 28 February 2008 and 151 Questions on 5 May 2008. On rest of the days, it contained 155 Questions each.

Half-an-Hour Discussion: In all, ten notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received, however none was discussed.

Short Notice Questions: In all, ten Short Notice Questions were received and only one was admitted.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Motiur Rahman and Kumari Nirmala Deshpande, both sitting members and Sarvashri Omem Moyong Deori, Yalla Sesi Bhushana Rao, Keshavprasad Shukla, R.K. Karanjia, Swapnananda Panigrahi, Balbir Singh, Mukhtiar Singh Malik, S.C. Angre, Jayant Kumar Malhoutra, Dr. (Kumari) Sarojini Babar and Kumari Sayeeda Khatun, all former members. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

STATE LEGISLATURES

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Third Delhi Legislative Assembly which commenced its Thirteenth Session on 17 March 2008 was adjourned *sine die* on 4 April 2008.

Address by the Lt. Governor: Being the first Session of the year the Lt. Governor of Delhi, Shri Tejendra Khanna addressed the House on 17 March 2008. The Address was debated in the House for four days and was passed on 20 March 2008.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following Bills were introduced and passed by the House: (i) The Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2008; (ii) The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2008; and (iii) the Delhi Sikh Gurudwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

The following Government Bills which were introduced in the previous Session, were also passed during this Session: (i) The Delhi Defacement of Property Prevention Bill, 2007; and (ii) The I.I.T.-Delhi Bill, 2007.

Financial Business: The Finance Minister, Dr. Ashok Kumar Walia presented the Budget for the year 2008-2009 in the House on 24 March 2008. The Budget was debated in the House for three days before it was passed on 27 March 2008. In all, eleven members participated in the discussion on the Budget.

Obituary References: The House paid tributes to *Amar Shaheed* Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev on *Shaheedi Diwas* and observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

The Maharashtra Legislative Council, which commenced its First Session of the year 2008 on 10 March 2008 was prorogued by the Governor on 25 April 2008. There were 31 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Maharashtra Shri S.M. Krishna addressed the Joint Sitting of both the Houses on 10 March 2008. A copy of the Governor's address was laid on the Table of the House on the same day. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for

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* Material contributed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislative Council Secretariat

his Address was moved and adopted by the House without any amendment.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Bombay Paragana and Kulkarni Watans (Abolition), The Bombay Service Inams (Useful to Community) Abolition, The Bombay Merged Territories Miscellaneous Alienations Abolition, The Bombay Inferior Village Watans Abolition and the Maharashtra Revenue Patels (Abolition of Office) (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (ii) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2008; (iii) The Maharashtra Ownership Flats (Regulation of the Promotion of Construction, Sale, Management and Transfer (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (iv) The Bombay Court-Fees (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (v) The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (vi) The Maharashtra High Court (Hearing of Writ Petitions by Division Bench and Abolition of Letters Patent Appeals) (Amendment) Bill, 2008; and (vii) The Shree Siddhi Vinayak Ganpati Temple Trust (Prabhadevi) (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

The following Bills as passed by the State Legislative Assembly were considered by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (ii) The Maharashtra Tax on Sale of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (iii) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporation and Municipal Council (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (iv) The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (v) The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax, The Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers), The Maharashtra Education and Employment Guarantee (Cess), The Tax on Sale of Electricity, The States Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments The Tax Acts (Amendment) and the Employment Guarantee (Amendment) and The Bombay State Scarcity Relief Fund (Repeal) Bill, 2008; (vi) The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (vii) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (viii) The Maharashtra Tax on Sale of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2008; and (ix) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Temporary Amendment) Bill, 2008.

The following Bills as passed by the Legislative Assembly were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008; (ii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008; (iii) The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2008; (iv) The Bombay Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2008; and (v) The Maharashtra Legislature Members Pension Bill, 2008.

Financial Business: The Minister of State for Finance, Shri Sunil Punjabrao Deshmukh presented the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 2007-2008 to the House on 11 March 2008. The General Discussion on the Supplementary Demands for the year 2007-2008 was held on 17 and 18 March 2008.

The Minister of State for Finance presented the Budget for the year 2008-2009 on 19 March 2008. The General Discussion on the Budget was held on 25, 26, 27 and 28 March 2008.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Baba Amte, a Great Social Worker, Sarvashri Ramrao Dnyanoba Jagtap Aawargaonkar, Bhagwanrao Dnyandev Suryavanshi, Shri Y.D. Phadke, Senior Litterateur, *Param Pujya Sadguru Swami* Gagangiri Maharaj, Shri Baburao Bagul, Senior Litterateur & Dr. (Smt.) Sarojini Babar, former M.L.A. and Senior Litterateur. The condolence motion was also passed for paying tributes to several innocent persons who died in a severe accident of a bus carrying pilgrims from Mumbai at Vani (District Nasik) on 20 January 2008. All members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, which commenced its First Session of the year 2008 on 10 March 2008 was prorogued by the Governor on 25 April 2008. There were 31 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Maharashtra addressed members of both the Houses on 10 March 2008. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved in the House on the same day. The discussion on the Motion was held on 12 and 13 March 2008. The House adopted the Motion without any amendment on 13 March 2008.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 21 Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007; (ii) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Third Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iii) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (iv) The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2008;

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* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Secretariat

(v) The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax, The Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers), The Maharashtra Education and Employment Guarantee (Cess), The Tax on Sale of Electricity, The State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments, the Tax Acts (Amendment) and The Employment Guarantee (Amendment) and The Bombay State Scarcity Relief Fund (Repeal) Bill, 2008; (vi) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008; (vii) The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (viii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008; (ix) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (x) The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2008; (xi) The Maharashtra Tax on Sale of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xii) The Bombay Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xiii) The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xiv) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Temporary Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xv) The Bombay Paragana and Kulkarni Watans (Abolition), The Service Inams (Useful to Community) Abolition, The Bombay Merged Territories Miscellaneous alienations Abolition, The Bombay Inferior Village Watans Abolitions and The Maharashtra Revenue Patels (Abolition of Office) (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xvi) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xvii) The Maharashtra Ownership Flats (Regulation of the Promotion of Construction, Sale, Management and Transfer) (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xviii) The Bombay Court-Fees (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xix) The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xx) The Maharashtra High Court (Hearing of Writ Petitions by Division Bench and Abolition of Letters Patent Appeals) (Amendment) Bill, 2008; and (xxi) The Shree Siddhi Vinayak Ganpati Temple Trust (Prabhadevi) (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

Financial business: The Minister of Finance presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 2007-2008 on 11 March 2008. The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands of five Departments were held on 17 and 18 March 2008.

A total of 65 Cut Motions were received, out of which 17 were admitted, while 48 were disallowed. No Cut Motion was moved in the House.

The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008 was passed by the House on 24 March 2008.

The Minister of Finance presented to the House the Budget for the year 2007-2008 on 19 March 2008. The general discussion on the Budget was held on 25 and 26 March 2008. The Minister replied to the discussion on 27 March 2008.

The discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants were held on 31 March, and 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10 April 2008. In all, 247 Demands for Grants of the Budget were passed by the House. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2008 was passed by the House on 11 April 2008.

A total of 4,529 Cut-Motions were received, out of which 4,418 were admitted, while 111 were disallowed. No Cut Motion was moved in the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Baba Amte, a Great Social Worker, Sarvashri Ramrao Dnyanoba Jagtap-Aawargaonkar, Madhavrao Devba Nerlikar, Sumant Rajaram Raut, Bango Nana Bhoir, Rajabhau Govind Mirashi, Shivajirao Tulajirao Jadyar, Martandrao Ramaji Kapgate, Ganpatrao Laxmanrao Sonavane, Gangaram Daulat Sakpal, Jagannath Shankarrao Barhate, Narayanrao Girmaji Patil-Nagadkar, all former members of the State Legislative Assembly; Shri Y.D. Phadke, *Param Pujya Sadguru Swami* Gagangiri Maharaj, and Shri Baburao Bagul, all Senior Litterateur and Dr. Smt. Sarojini Babar, former M.L.A. and Senior Litterateur. The condolence motion was also passed for paying tributes to several innocent persons who died in a severe accident of bus carrying pilgrims from Mumbai at Vani (District Nasik) on 20 January 2008. All members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

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APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	25 February 2008 to 19 March 2008 15 April 2008 to 5 May 2008
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	28
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	162 hours and 11 minutes
4.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	32
	(ii) Introduced	18
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha	5
	(iv) Reported by Standing Committee	8
	(v) Referred to Departmentally Related Standing Committees by Speaker, Lok Sabha/Chairman, Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vi) Discussed	21
	(vii) Passed	20
	(viii) Withdrawn	1
	(ix) Part-discussed	1
	(x) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	10
	(xi) Pending at the end of the Session	34
5.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	247
	(ii) Introduced	23
	(iii) Discussed	1
	(iv) Passed	Nil
	(v) Part-discussed	1
	(vi) Pending at the end of the Session	270
6.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notices received	654
	(ii) Admitted	101
	(iii) Discussed	1
7.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	298
8.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	307

9.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	444
	(ii) Admitted	3
	(iii) Discussions held	1
10.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling attention to matters of Urgent Public Importance)	3
11.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372 & DIRECTION 73A	51
12.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	40
	(ii) Admitted	8
	(iii) Moved	7
	(iv) Adopted	2
	(v) Withdrawn	5
13.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	3
	(ii) Admitted	3
	(iii) Moved	2
	(iv) Discussed	NIL
	(v) Adopted	1
	(vi) Withdrawn	1
14.	NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE(S) CONSTITUTED, IF ANY DURING THE SESSION	4
15.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	14,930
16.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	989 passes issued on 4 March 2008
17.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
	(i) Starred questions	560
	(ii) Starred questions answered orally	105
	(iii) Un-starred	5,413
	(iv) Half-an-Hour discussions	1
18.	NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATE	7 Members (3 MPs on 26 February 2006; 1 MP on 3 March 2008 and 3 MPs on 22 April 2008)
19.	NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	10
	(ii) Brought before the House	Nil

20. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period from 1 April to 30 June 2008	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	—	—
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	—	—
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of women	4	2
iv)	Committee on Estimates	4	Nil
v)	Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
vii)	Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha	4	1
viii)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	2	Nil
ix)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
x)	Committee on Petitions	6	2
xi)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	1	1
xii)	Committee of Privileges	6	2
xiii)	Committee on Public Accounts	—	—
xiv)	Committee on Public Undertakings	5	3 (Original) 2 (Action Taken)
xv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xvi)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	6	2 (Action Taken) 1 (Tour Report)
xvii)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xviii)	House Committee	1	Nil
	(a) Accommodation Sub-Committee	Nil	Nil
	(b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	Nil	Nil
xix)	Library Committee	—	—
xx)	Railway Convention Committee	1	1 (Original 2 (Action Taken)
xxi)	Rules Committee	—	—
	JOINT / SELECT COMMITTEE		
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	—	—
ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	—	—

DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	—	—
iii)	Committee on Coal & Steel	2	2
iv)	Committee on Defence	10	1
v)	Committee on Energy	5	2
vi)	Committee on External Affairs	5	2
vii)	Committee on Finance	5	5
viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	—	—
ix)	Committee on Information Technology	—	—
x)	Committee on Labour	5	3
xi)	Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	3	2
xii)	Committee on Railways	5	1 (Original) 4 (Statements)
xiii)	Committee on Rural Development	—	—
xiv)	Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment	—	—
xv)	Committee on Urban Development	—	—
xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	5	1

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	25 February to 20 March 2008 and 15 April to 6 May 2008
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	30
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	141 Hours and 8 Minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	Nil
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	39
	(ii) Introduced	4
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Lok Sabha	16
	(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment	Nil
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vii) Referred to the Department-related Standing Committees	3
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	Nil
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(x) Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	9
	(xi) Discussed	20
	(xii) Passed	20
	(xiii) Withdrawn	1
	(xiv) Negatived	Nil
	(xv) Part-discussed	Nil
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	Nil
	(xvii) Discussion postponed	Nil
	(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	37
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	218
	(ii) Introduced	Nil
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil

(iv)	Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	Nil
(v)	Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(vi)	Discussed	Nil
(vii)	Withdrawn	Nil
(viii)	Passed	Nil
(ix)	Negatived	Nil
(x)	Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi)	Part-discussed	Nil
(xii)	Discussion postponed	Nil
(xiii)	Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv)	Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv)	Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	82
(xvi)	Pending at the end of the Session	137

7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)

(i)	Notices received	92
(ii)	Admitted	2
(iii)	Discussions held	2

8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)

	Statement made by Ministers	Nil

9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS —

10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS

(i)	Notices received	2
(ii)	Admitted	2
(iii)	Moved	2
(iv)	Adopted	—
(v)	Negatived	2
(vi)	Withdrawn	—

11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

(i)	Notices received	2
(ii)	Admitted	2
(iii)	Moved	2
(iv)	Adopted	2

12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

(i)	Received	8
(ii)	Admitted	8
(iii)	Discussed	2

(iv)	Withdrawn	2
(v)	Negatived	—
(vi)	Adopted	—
(vii)	Part-discussed	1
(viii)	Discussion postponed	—
13.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved & discussed	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Part-discussed	Nil
14.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i)	Received	562
(ii)	Admitted	496
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Part-discussed	Nil
(vi)	Negatived	Nil
(vii)	Withdrawn	Nil
15.	MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i)	Received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	Nil
(viii)	Lapsed	Nil
16.	NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	Nil
17.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	2,460
18.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	4,533
19.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	365 (on 15.4.2008)
20.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	442 (on 15.4.2008)
21.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i)	Starred	580
(ii)	Unstarred	4,303
(iii)	Short-Notice Questions	1

22. DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES 5

Ministry of Human Resource Development

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Ministry of Rural Development

Ministry of Labour and Dmployment

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period from 1 April to 30 June 2008	No. of Reports presented
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	3	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	3	2
(iii)	Committee on Petitions	3	Nil
(iv)	Committee of Privileges	1	—
(v)	Committee on Rules	—	—
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	1	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	2	Nil
(viii)	General Purposes Committee	2	Nil
(ix)	House Committee	1	Nil
Department-related Standing Committees:			
(x)	Commerce	7	2
(xi)	Home Affairs	12	4
(xii)	Human Resource Development	5	4
(xiii)	Industry	10	7
(xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	10	7
(xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	4	8
(xvi)	Health & Family Welfare	6	3
(xvii)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	5	3
Other Committees			
(xviii)	Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil
(xix)	Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha	1	—
(xx)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	Nil	Nil
(xxi)	Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Functioning of Wakf Boards	4	Nil
24.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3	—
25.	PETITIONS PRESENTED	1	—

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATES

Sl. No.	Name of Members sworn-in	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn-in
1.	Dr. Ejaz Ali	JD(U)	20.3.2008
2.	Shri Prithviraj Chavan	INC	15.4.2008
3.	Shri Prakash Javadekar	BJP	-do-
4.	Shri Y.P. Trivedi	NCP	-do-
5.	Shri Murli Deora	INC	-do-
6.	Shri Rajkumar Dhoot	Shiv Sena	-do-
7.	Shri Bharatkumar Raut	Shiv Sena	-do-
8.	Shri Janardhan Madhavrao Waghmare	NCP	-do-
9.	Shri Balbir Punj	BJP	-do-
10.	Shri Mangala Kisan	BJD	-do-
11.	Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia	INC	-do-
12.	Shrimati Renubala Pradhan	BJD	-do-
13.	Shri A.A. Jinnah	DMK	-do-
14.	Shri N. Balaganga	AIADMK	-do-
15.	Shri T.K. Rangarajan	CPI(M)	-do-
16.	Shrimati Vasanthi Stanley	DMK	-do-
17.	Shri G.K. Vasan	INC	-do-
18.	Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan	INC	-do-
19.	Shri Ahmed Sayeed Malihabadi	INC	-do-
20.	Shri Tarini Kanta Roy	CPI(M)	-do-
21.	Shri Debabrata Biswas	AIFB	-do-
22.	Shri Shyamal Chakraborty	CPI(M)	-do-
23.	Shri Prasanta Chatterjee	CPI(M)	-do-
24.	Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy	INC	-do-
25.	Shri Mohd. Ali Khan	INC	-do-
26.	Shrimati T. Ratna Bai	INC	-do-
27.	Shri K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao	INC	-do-
28.	Dr. Bhubaneswar Kalita	INC	-do-
29.	Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya	AGP	-do-
30.	Shri Biswajit Daimary	Bodoland Peoples Front	-do-
31.	Dr. C.P. Thakur	BJP	-do-
32.	Shri N.K. Singh	JD(U)	-do-
33.	Shri Prem Chand Gupta	RJD	-do-
34.	Shri Sabir Ali	Lok Janshakti Party	-do-
35.	Shri Motilal Vora	INC	-do-
36.	Shri Shivpratap Singh	BJP	-do-
37.	Shri Natuji Halaji Thakor	BJP	-do-

38.	Shri Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala	BJP	-do-
39.	Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar	BJP	-do-
40.	Shri Ishwar Singh	INC	-do-
41.	Dr. Ram Prakash	INC	-do-
42.	Shri Shanta Kumar	BJP	-do-
43.	Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Singh	BJP	-do-
44.	Shri Prabhat Jha	BJP	-do-
45.	Shri Parimal Nathwani	IND	-do-
46.	Shrimati Maya Singh	BJP	-do-
47.	Shri Raghunandan Sharma	BJP	-do-
48.	Shri Rishang Keishing	INC	-do-
49.	Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania	BJP	-do-
50.	Dr. Prabha Thakur	INC	-do-
51.	Shri Thomas A. Sangma	NCP	-do-
52.	Shri Nandi Yellaiah	INC	16.4.2008
53.	Shri Nandamuri Harikrishna	TDP	-do-
54.	Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya	INC	-do-
55.	Shri Om Prakash Mathur	BJP	-do-
56.	Shri Shivanand Tiwari	JD(U)	17.4.2008

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Sl. No.	Name	Sitting Member/ Ex-Member
1.	Shri Motiur Rahman	Sitting Member
2.	Shrimati Omem Moyong Deori	Ex-Member
3.	Shri Yalla Sesi Bhushana Rao	-do-
4.	Shri Keshavprasad Shukla	-do-
5.	Shri R.K. Karanjia	-do-
6.	Shri Swapnananda Panigrahi	-do-
7.	Shri Balbir Singh	-do-
8.	Kumari Sayeeda Khatun	-do-
9.	Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik	-do-
10.	Shri S.C. Angre	-do-
11.	Shri Jayant Kumar Malhoutra	-do-
12.	Dr. (Kumari) Sarojini Babar	-do-
13.	Kumari Nirmala Deshpande	Sitting Member

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2008

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	22.2.2008 to 3.4.2008	25	–(12)	—	1,365(1,369)#	—	501(410)
Chhattisgarh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	415(243)	—
Haryana L.A.	—	—	—	—	280(199)	56(31)	7
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	4.6.2008 to 25.6.2008	6	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.	6.6.2008 & 23.6.2008 to 25.6.2008	4	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Madhya Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab L.A.	—	—	—	—	4	2	3
Rajasthan L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	35(31)
Sikkim L.A.	9.6.2008 to 10.6.2008	2	14(14)	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	6.6.2008 to 26.6.2008	7	3(1)	—	418(274)	898(650)	1
Uttarakhand L.A.	12.5.2008 to 13.6.2008	3	—	—	11(8)	–3@	4(1)
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	1,119(258)	1,211(1,605)@	193
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	—	—	—	—	785(680)	366(332)	1
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Starred Questions and Short Notices admitted as Unstarred

Unstarred Business and Short Notices admitted as Starred

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK / NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2008

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.	—	1	1	—	—	2	3	1	2	1	1	—	4	—	—	4[a]
Bihar L.A.	—	12	10	—	2	10	10	14	20	3	10	11	24	—	—	102[b]
Bihar L.C.	2(2)	14	11	7(1)	10	—	11	11	—	11	11	8	—	2	—	91(16)[c]
Chhattisgarh L.A.	—	2	2	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	1	1	7	—	—	8[d]
Goa L.A.	2(2)	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	2	—	2	3	7(3)	1(1)	—	18[e]
Gujarat L.A.	—	6	4	1	1	7	5	11	6	—	6	2	13	3	—	25[f]
Haryana L.A.	—	16	21	—	14	18	25	19	22	—	2	14	15	—	—	4[g]
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.	—	4	5	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7[h]
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.	—	5	34	—	2	7	5	5	6	1	3	14	6	1	—	84(1)[i]
Karnataka L.A.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.	—	3	6	2	—	8	4	6	5	—	8	2	8	—	—	71[j]
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	—	3	5	1	6	8	1	2	6	—	3	2	7	—	—	10[k]
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.	—	2	—	—	—	2(2)	—	4	3	2	—	—	5	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	—	4	8	—	—	4	8	4	6	2	—	3	3	—	—	35[l]
Punjab L.A.	—	6	6	—	1	4	1	6	8	—	—	—	2	—	—	22[m]
Rajasthan L.A.	—	19	19	—	15	25	24	53	51	—	29	22	25	13	1	73[n]
Sikkim L.A.	—	2(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(2)	—	—	—	5(4)	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Tripura L.A.	2(2)	—	1(1)	—	—	2	—	2(2)	1	—	2	—	4(5)	1	—	13(2)[e]
Uttarakhand L.A.	3(3)	7(1)	4	—	—	2	—	—	4	—	1	—	8	—	9	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	—	11	—	—	—	7	3	6	10	—	—	—	5	2	—	21[b]
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	11	—	5	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	84[a]
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	7(1)	—	1(1)	2	3(2)	—	2	2	—	—	—	53	—	—	3(2)[f]
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

(a) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-1; Act Implementation Committee-1; and OBC and MOBC Committee-2

(b) Tourism Development Committee-11; Zila Panchayat / Zila parishad Committee-10; Internal Resources Committee-12; Women and Child Welfare Committee-14; Agriculture and Industrial Development Committee-10; Zero Hour Committee-11; Members' Fund Monitoring and Implementation Committee-23; and Question and Calling Attention Committee-11

(c) Human Rights Committee-22(2); Questions and Calling Attention Committee-18(1); Nivedan Committee-6(12); Committee on State Language-10; Committee on Welfare of Minorities-11; Zila Parishad and Panchayati Raj Committee-14(1); and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-10

(d) Question and Reference Committee-8

(e) Ad-hoc Committee on PWD, Panchayat, Transport-2; Ad-hoc Committee on Law-2; Ad-hoc Committee on Health, Social Welfare-2; Ad-hoc Committee on Agriculture & Forests-2; Ad-hoc Committee on Home-4; Ad-hoc Committee on Finance-2; Ad-hoc Committee on Education, Sports and Information Technology-2; and Ad-hoc Committee on Industries, Labour and Tourism-2

(f) Members' Pay and Allowance Rules Committee-2; Panchayati Raj Committee-11; Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Committee-6; Committee on Absence of Members-3; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-3

(g) Committee on Yamuna Accords-3; and Press Gallery Committee-1

(h) Committee on Environment-5 and Ethics Committee-2

(i) Nivedan Committee-8; Zero Hour Committee-6; Zila Panchayat / Zila Parishad Committee-6; Question and Calling Attention Committee-9(1); Members' Convenience Committee-3; Non-Government Resolution Committee-6; Untaking Question Implementation Committee-7; Tourism Development Committee-6; Environment and Pollution Control Committee-7; Minority Weavers Welfare Committee-7; Yuva Khel Sanskriti Committee-6; Woman and Child Development Committee-7 and Internal Resources Committee-6

(j) Committee on the Welfare of Women, Children, and Physically Handicapped-6; Committee on Environment-6; Committee on the Welfare of Backward Class Communities-4; Committee on Official Language-5; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-6; Committee on Local Fund Accounts-6; and Subject Committees-38

(k) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-3; Committee on Question and Reference-4; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-3

(l) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-4; Standing Committees-24; Ethics Committee-2; and House Committee on Woman and Child Welfare-5

(m) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-3; Committee on Questions and References-9; Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions-2; House Committee to Examine Pollution being Created by Sugar Mills and Distilleries in the State-5; and House Committee to enquire into the matter regarding Exemption of 32.10 Acre of Land from the 188 Scheme of Improvement Trust Amritsar-3

(n) Committee on Welfare of Woman and Child-23; Question and Reference Committee-23; and Committee on Welfare of Backward Class-27

(o) Subject Committees-13(2)

(p) Committee on Parliamentary Research, Reference and Studies-1; and Committee Relating to Examination of Audit Report of the Local Bodies of the State-20

(q) Committee on Reference and Question-10; Committee on Financial and Administrative Delays-17; Committee on Parliamentary Study-2; Committee on Enquiry of House Complaints of U.P. Legislature-10; Parliamentary and Social Welfare Committee-15; Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Zila Panchayats and Municipal Corporation-2; Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arangement-13; Committee on Regulation Review-5; Committee on Enquiry of Ragging in Colleges / Engineering Institutions-2; and Committee on Enquiry of Death / Suicide due to Hunger-8

(r) Committee on Woman and Child Welfare-1(1); Question and Reference Committee-1; and Committee on Rural Issue-1(1)

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2008

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008	1.4.2008
2.	The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008	1.4.2008
3.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3, Bill, 2008	29.4.2008
4.	The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2008	6.5.2008
5.	The Finance Bill, 2008	10.5.2008
6.	The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008	16.5.2008

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2008

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Bihar Rajya Sarvajanik Pustakalaya evam Suchna Kendra Vidheyak, 2008
2. The Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2008
3. The Bihar Vitt Vidheyak, 2008
4. The Bihar Lok Karya Sambida Vivad Madhyashtham Nyanadikaran Vidheyak, 2008
5. The Bihar Rajya Sukshama Evam Laghu Udyam Punarvas Vidheyak, 2008
6. The Bihar Rajya Mela Pradhikaar Vidheyak, 2008
7. The Bihar Rajya Nirvachan Pradhikaar Vidheyak, 2008
8. The Bihar Rajya Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
9. The Patna Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
10. The Bihar Sahkari Society (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
11. The Bihar Sthaniya Kshetra Mein Upayog, Vyavahar athawa bikri hetu malon ke pravesh par kar (Sanshodhan evam vidhi manyakaran) Vidheyak, 2007

SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Sikkim District Based Entrepreneurs and Professionals Development Bill, 2008
2. The Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University Bill, 2008
3. The Sikkim Constitution of Special Eco-Task Forest Guards Bill, 2008*
4. The Sikkim Municipalities (Second Amendment) Bill, 2008
5. The Sikkim Levy of Road Protection, Development and Maintenance Cess Bill, 2008
6. The Sikkim Police Bill, 2008
7. The Sikkim Khadi and Village Industries Board (Amendment) Bill, 2008
8. The Sikkim Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2008
9. The Sikkim Promotion of Local Employment Bill, 2008*
10. The Sikkim Reservation of Seats in Private Educational Institution Bill, 2008
11. The Sikkim Regulation of Societies, Associations and Other Voluntary Organizations Bill, 2008
12. The Sikkim Land Tenancy Bill, 2008
13. The Sikkim Succession Bill, 2008

14. The Sikkim Online Gaming (Regulation) Bill, 2008

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tripura Appropriation Bill, 2008

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* Bills awaiting assent

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2008

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
		UNION GOVERNMENT			
		—Nil —			
		GUJARAT			
1.	The Gujarat Cotton Seeds (Regulation of Supply, Distributions, Sale and Fixation of Sale Price Ordinance, 2008	10.6.2008	—	—	—
		KERALA			
1.	The Kerala Tailoring Workers' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	1.4 2008	23.6.2008	—	—
2.	The Kerala Handloom Workers' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	1.4.2008	23.6.2008	—	—

3.	The Unregistered Cashew Nut Factories Prohibition (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	1.4.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
4.	The Kerala Farmers' Debt Relief Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	1.4.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
5.	The Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	1.4.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
6.	The Kerala (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Regulation of Issue of Community Certificates (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	1.4.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
7.	The Kerala Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	1.4.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
8.	The Water Supply and Sewerage (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	1.4.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
9.	The Kerala High Court Services (Determination of Retirement Age) Ordinance, 2008	1.4.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
10.	The Kerala Head Load Workers' (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	18.4.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
11.	The National University of Advanced Legal Studies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	9.6.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
12.	The Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	9.6.2008	23.6.2008	—	—

13	The Kerala Shops and Commercial Establishment Workers' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	10.6.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
14	The Kerala Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	10.6.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
15	The Kerala State Lottery Agents' and Sellers' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	10.6.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
16	The Kerala Advocates' Clerks Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	10.6.2008	23.6.2008	—	—
		MADHYA PRADESH			
1.	The Madhya Pradesh (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2008	12.5.2008	—	—	—
2.	The Madhya Pradesh Vittkar (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2008	12.5.2008	—	—	—
3.	The Madhya Pradesh Nagariya Kshetron ke Bhumiheen Vyakti (Patyadhrti Adikaron kaa Praday Kiya Jana) (Sanshodhan), Adhyadesh, 2008	31.5.2008	—	—	—
		MANIPUR			
1.	The Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	11.5.2008	—	—	Subsequently withdraw

UTTAR PRADESH

1.	The Uttar Pradesh Uchatar Shiksha Seva Ayog (Sanshodhan) (Dwitiya) Adhyadesh, 2008	2.6.2008	—	—	—
2.	The Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Services Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	2.6.2008	—	—	—

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN 14TH LOK SABHA (AS ON 3 JUNE 2008)

States	No. of Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	SP	RJD	BSP	DMK	SS	BJD	NCP	CPI	JD(U)	SAD	PMK	JMM	TDP	MD MK	LJSP	JD (S)	AIFB
Andhra Pradesh	42	31	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	3	5	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Chhattisgarh	11	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	14	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	9	15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Kerala	20	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	5	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	13	12	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	13	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	4	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	10	—	2	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	—	4	—	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand	5	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	9	10	—	37	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	6	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Nominated	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	545	153	130	43	39	24	17	16	12	11	11	10	8	8	6	5	5	4	4	3	3

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

States	RLD	RSP	TRS	AGP	J&K NC	KC	AIM IM	AITC	BNP	J&K PDP	MNF	MUK SC	NPF	NLP	RPI (A)	SDF	IND	TOTAL	VACAN-CIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	1
Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	20	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	48	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Uttarakhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Uttar Pradesh	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	79	1
West Bengal	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Nominated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
UNION TERRITORIES																			
A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	543	2

Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

AGP-Asom Gana Parishad; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; AIMIM-All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; BJD-Biju Janata Dal; BJP-Bharatiya Janata Party; BNP-Bharatiya Navshakti Party; BSP-Bahujan Samaj Party; CPI(M)-Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI-Communist Party of India; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; INC-Indian National Congress; IND-Independents; J&KPDP-Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party; J&KNC-Jammu & Kashmir National Conference; JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; KC-Kerala Congress; LJSP-Lok Jan Shakti Party; MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MLKSC-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; MNF-Mizo National Front; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; NLP-National Loktantrik Party; NPF-Nagaland Peoples Front; PMK-Pattali Makkal Katchi; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; RPI(A)-Republican Party of India(A); RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD-Shiromani Akali Dal; SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front; SP-Samajwadi Party; SS-Shiv Sena; TDP-Telugu Desam Party; TRS-Telangana Rashtra Samithi

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 10 JULY 2008)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	SP	CPI (M)	JD(U)	AIA-DMK	BSP	NCP	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
STATES														
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	13	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4[a]	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3.	Assam	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[b]	—	7	—
4.	Bihar	16	1	3	—	—	7	—	—	—	5[c]	—	16	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
8.	Haryana	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[d]	1	5	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[e]	—	4	—
11.	Jharkhand	6	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
12.	Karnataka	12	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[f]	1	12	—
13.	Kerala	9	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	2[g]	—	9	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
15.	Maharashtra	19	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	5[h]	1	19	—
16.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
18.	Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[i]	—	1	—
19.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[j]	—	1	—
20.	Orissa	10	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4[k]	—	10	—
21.	Punjab	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[l]	—	7	—
22.	Rajasthan	10	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
23.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[m]	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
24.	Tamil Nadu	18	4	—	—	1	—	7	—	—	6[n]	—	18	—
25.	Tripura	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26.	Uttarakhand	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31	—	6	16	—	—	—	6	—	1[o]	—	29	2
28.	West Bengal	16	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	5[p]	2	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES														
29.	The NCT of Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
30.	Puducherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31.	Nominated	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	8[q]	—	11	1
	TOTAL	245	71	53	16	15	8	7	6	6	54	6	242	3

OTHERS
(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

(a) Telegu Desam Party-3; and Communist Party of India-1
(b) Asom Gana Parishad-2; and Bodoland People's Front-1
(c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-4; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
(d) Indian National Lok Dal-1
(e) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-1; and Peoples' Democratic Party-1
(f) Janata Dal (Secular)-2
(g) Muslim League-1; and Communist Party of India-1
(h) Shiv Sena-4; and Swtantra Bharat Paksh-1
(i) Mizo National Front-1
(j) Nagaland Peoples' Front-1
(k) Biju Janata Dal-4
(l) Shiromani Akali Dal-3
(m) Sikkim Democratic Front-1
(n) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-4; Pattali Makkal Katchi-1; and Communist Party of India-1
(o) Rashtriya Lok Dal-1;
(p) All India Trinamool Congress-2; All India Forward Bloc-1; Revolutionary Socialist Party-1; and Communist Party of India-1
(q) Nominated-8

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A. (1.7.2008)	60	43	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[a]	14	60	—
Assam L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A. (30.6.2008)	243	8	55	1	3	1	4	91	—	70[b]	10	243	—
Bihar L.C. (30.6.2008)	75	3	14	2	3	—	—	17	—	13[c]	22	74●	—
Chhattisgarh L.A. (1.7.2008)	91	34	52	—	—	1	1	—	—	1[d]	—	89	2
Goa L.A. (1.7.2008)	39	17	14	—	—	3	—	—	—	3[e]	2	39	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.7.2008)	182	59	117	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	2	182	—
Haryana L.A. (1.7.2008)	90	65	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	10[f]	10	89●	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A. (1.7.2008)	89	22	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	49[g]	14	89	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A. (19.2.2008)	82	8	29	—	1	1	—	5	—	33[h]	4	81●	—

Karnataka L.A. (2.7.2008)	225	80	109	—	—	—	—	—	28	1[a]	6	224[e]	—
Karnataka L.C. (21.6.2008)	75	32	17	—	—	—	—	2	13	—	3	67[e]	7
Kerala L.A (1.7.2008)	141	24	—	60	17	2	—	—	5	27[a]	5	140[e]	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (1.7.2008)	231	41	165	1	—	1	2	1	—	14[k]	2	227[e]	3
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A. (1.7.2008)	60	31	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	11[a]	10	60	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A. (1.7.2008)	147	38	32	1	1	—	—	—	—	67[h,j]	8	147	—
Punjab L.A. (1.7.2008)	117	44	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	49[h]	5	117	—
Rajasthan L.A. (30.6.2008)	200	55	123	1	—	—	2	2	—	4[c]	13	200	—
Sikkim L.A. (1.7.2008)	32	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31[b]	—	32	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A. (1.1.2008)	60	10	—	46	1	—	—	—	—	3[a]	—	60	—
Uttarakhand L.A. (1.7.2008)	71	20	36	—	—	—	8	—	—	7[f]	—	71	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A. (1.7.2008)	404	21	51	—	—	—	215	1	—	107[a]	8	403	1

Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.7.2008)	100	4	24	—	—	—	14	—	—	53[m]	5	100	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY													
Delhi L.A. (1.7.2008)	70	47	20	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	70	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Excluding Speaker/Chairman

a) Arunachal Congress-2

b) Rashtriya Janata Dal-54; Lok Jan Shakti Party-10; Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)-5; and Akhil Jan Vikas Dal-1

c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-12; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

d) Nominated-1

e) United Goans Democratic Party-1; and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-2

f) Indian National Lok Dal-9; and Haryana Janhit Congress Party (BL)-1

g) National Conference-24; Peoples Democratic Party-18; National Panthers Party-4; Awami League-1; Jammu State Morcha-1; and Democratic Movement-1

h) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-17; Rashtriya Janata Dal-7; All Jharkhand Students Union-2; United Goans Democratic Party-2; All India Forward Bloc-2; Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)-1; Jharkhand Party-1; and Nominated-1

i) Nominated-1

j) Muslim League-7; Kerala Congress (M)-7; Kerala Congress-4; Revolutionary Socialist Party-3; Congress (Secular)-1; Kerala Congress (Secular)-1; Kerala Congress (B)-1; Janathipathya Samrakshana Samithi-1; Indian National League-1; and Nominated-1

k) Samajwadi Party-8; Gondwana Gantantra Party-3; Rashtriya Samanta Dal-2; and Nominated-1

l) Manipur Peoples' Party-5 Rashtriya Janata Dal-3; and National Peoples' Party-3

m) Biju Janata Dal-61; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-4; and Orissa Gana Parishad-2
n) Shiromani Akali Dal-49
o) Indian National Lok Dal-3; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
p) Sikkim Democratic Front-31
q) Revolutionary Socialist Party-2; and Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra-6
r) Uttarakhand Party-3; Nominated-1; and Others-3
s) Samajwadi Party-94; Rashtriya Lok Dal-10; Jan Morcha-1; Rashtriya Swabhimaan Party-1 and Nominated-1
t) Samajwadi Party-37; Rashtriya Lok Dal-6; Sikchhak Dal (Non-Political)-9; and Samajwadi Janata Dal (Rashtriya)-1